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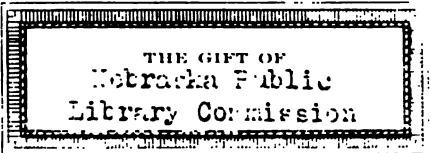
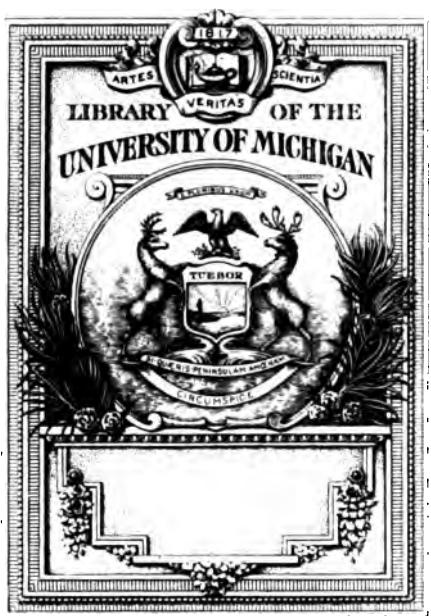
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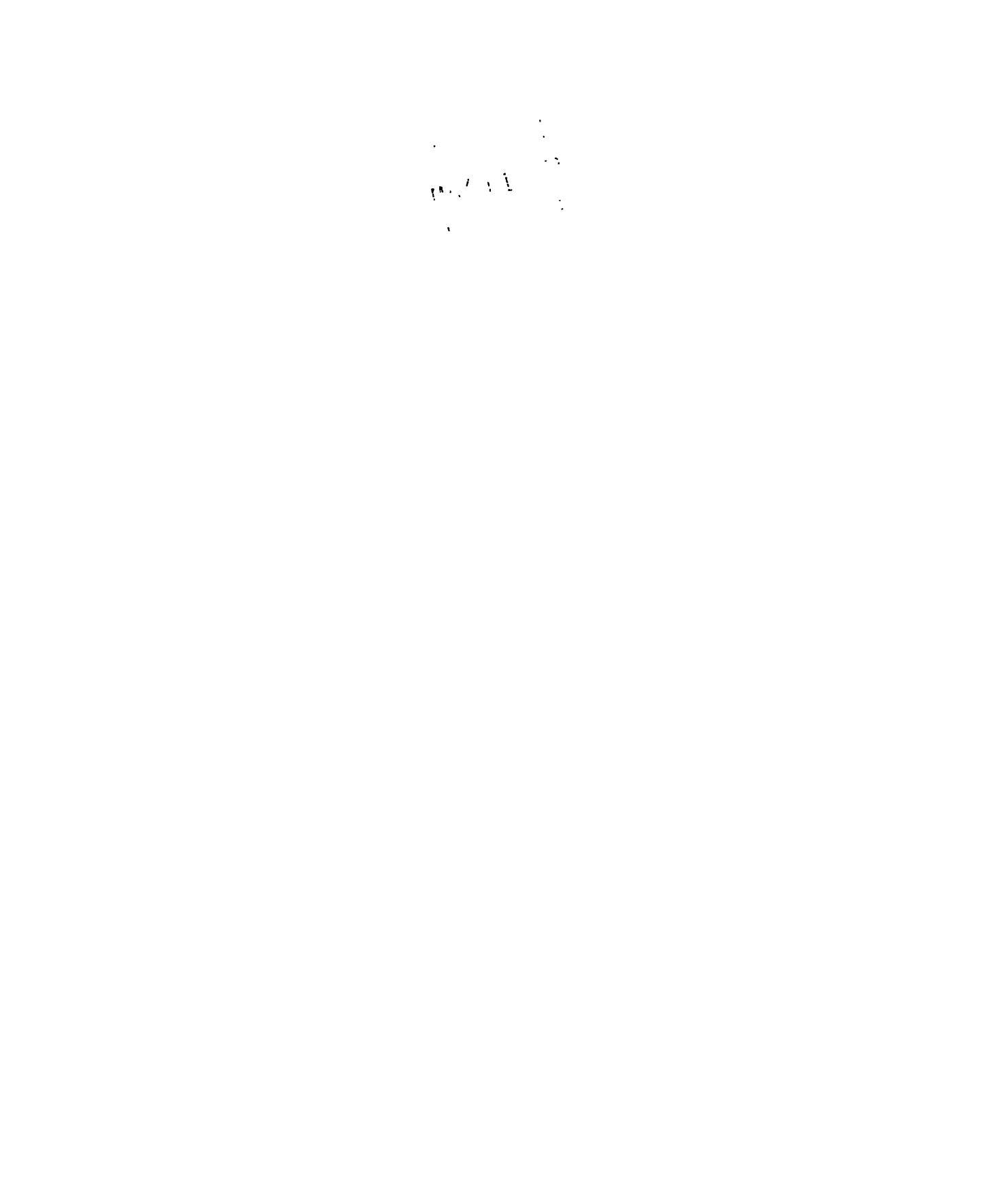
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SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

**J. I. WYER, JR., PRESIDENT,
LIBRARIAN UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.**

**E. BENJ. ANDREWS,
CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA.**

**W. K. FOWLER,
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**H. C. LINDSAY,
STATE LIBRARIAN.**

**F. L. HALLER,
OMAHA PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

EDNA D. BULLOCK, SECRETARY.



LINCOLN, NOVEMBER 30, 1904

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

LINCOLN, NOVEMBER

Excellency, John H. Mickey, Governor of Nebraska:
Iplying with a requirement of the law creating this C
honor to present herewith the second biennial report of
Library Commission, covering the two years ending November
the Department of Public Instruction supervises, directs,
ols of Nebraska, so the Public Library Commission is co
development and highest efficiency of that other great br
urred on in the home, which centers in the Library, and
its means the printed book. To make wholesome, clean,
ound in Nebraska, especially in the remoter parts of th
f our special care.

following report by our secretary and active executive o
our work with some minuteness, is heartily commenc
s indicating the scope and nature of our activities and
they have met in all parts of the state.

Very truly,

J. I. WYER, Jr.,

President Nebraska Public Library Com



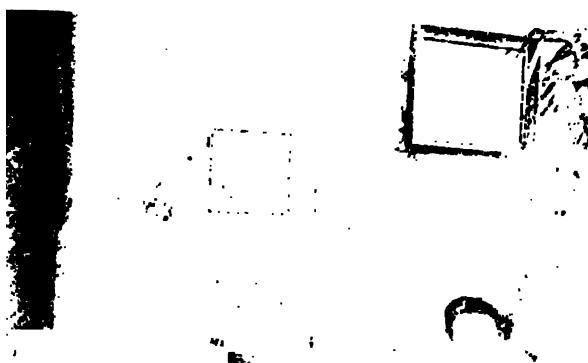
FREMONT PUBLIC LIBRARY



CHILDREN'S ROOM, BEATRICE PUBLIC LIBRARY.



TRAVELING LIBRARY IN A HILL AREA OF NORTHERN INDIA



LIBRARY PROGRESS IN NEBRASKA.

The Nebraska Public Library Commission.

This Commission, having been in existence barely three years, finds the library movement in the state largely centered in the work of this office. It will be shown that all that was needed to quicken into life a multitude of library centers was some central bureau where information might be obtained and help given. This has been the work given into the care of this Commission, and this brief record of progress will surely gratify all who realize that, magnificent as is the material record of the state in the past two years, the best index to the real life of the commonwealth is written in the ambitions of her people for higher things, and the educational facilities at the command of the humblest and remotest of her citizens. Our splendid public schools, our state Normal school, our University, are our just pride, but these schools, beyond the intermediate grades, are, after all, for the few, and for limited periods. Our first rank for low percentage of illiteracy must be maintained, and we must not stop there—Nebraska must place the means of continued education within the reach of all her people, and must see to it that they are eager to improve their opportunities.

In the fine educational showing made by the state at the St. Louis exposition, the library was given next place to the schools as a factor in the general culture of the state. No one who saw the exhibit there made by this Commission could fail to see that the public library has become a distinct phase of the educational development of the state. Some idea of the awakening that promises to elevate the library to its proper co-ordinate place with the school may be gained from the records of this office.

Meetings of the Commission.

During the biennial period covered by this report, the Commission has held three meetings for the transaction of routine business. The old officers were re-elected, and in October, 1903, Miss Daisy I. Lutz, of Blair, Neb., was elected to assist in the work of the office, it having grown to such proportions that the Secretary could no longer attend to the office routine and satisfactorily administer the larger affairs of the Commission. The executive work is left almost wholly to the Secretary, who makes full reports of all work done and all important moves in contemplation to the members of the Commission, and secures their approval and co-operation. Much of the individual time and sincere effort of the members is devoted to the details of the work, and to this strong personal interest in the extra trust imposed by law upon them is due, in a large measure, the abundant and apparent success of the work undertaken.

Appropriations and Expenditures.

The legislature of 1903 appropriated \$6,000 for this Commission. This sum, while not so much as was asked for, has enabled the Commission to live, and to accomplish results quite beyond all reasonable expectations. A number of desirable lines of work can not be undertaken until a larger appropriation makes more travel, more books and equipment, and more office room and assistance possible. By the practice of economy, the amount appropriated has been made to maintain the work undertaken in a creditable state of efficiency. The business of the office continually increases along lines that can not fail to prove a benefit to the cause of education in the state. The Commission only waits the increase in resources to extend the benefits still further.

Library Extension.

The most important feature of the work is that of "encouraging the establishment of libraries where none exist"—a task enjoined by law and more than justified by the results. Appreciable progress toward a universal system of public libraries for our state has been made; but it is only a premonition of what is before us.

The Massachusetts library commission can proudly point to the results of fourteen years' work—for no resident of Massachusetts to-day can live away from the library's sphere of influence; no child in all that commonwealth but is entitled to library privileges, and may continue his education throughout life. Nebraska—with no crowded, smoke begrimed cities, with wide sweeps of virgin soil, with great undeveloped resources and limitless aspirations, has said to this Commission:—"Encourage the founding of libraries where none exist," to the end that some proud day, we, too, may be able to tell the world that nowhere within our borders could be found a man or woman whose thirst for helpful and useful books could not be, in a measure, gratified.

In so grand a work, we are able to say with confidence that a beginning has been made. Not only have a number of places, under the guidance of the Commission, established libraries during the biennium, but many more have been set to thinking. Little libraries in Sterling, Talmage, Randolph, Waterloo, Pender, DeWitt, Wisner, Carroll, Wihside, and Ashland have come into being in response to the popular movement which has been fostered by the Commission and participated in by the state Federation of women's clubs and other organizations. Similar projects are in contemplation at Oxford, St. Paul, Clarks, Havelock, Neligh, Fullerton, and many other places. To all such places literature has been sent, hundreds of letters have been written, visits have been made by the Secretary, and every possible encouragement given. Audiences have been addressed, influential citizens have been appealed to—and never, in the end, without result. The near future is bound to witness a library epidemic in the villages of 800 in population. Since an increase in the assessment roll of a village will give the library greater possibility of revenue, many villages will see the way to estab-

lish libraries. In none of them can the revenue be equal to the work in hand; for a two-mill levy in the average Nebraska village will bring in very little money—merely enough to keep the library alive, leaving to public spirit and philanthropy the task of enabling it to grow.

Every town in the state having a population of over 4,000 has a public library supported by taxation, and a library building—in some cases the gift of Mr. Carnegie, or of some former citizens, and in one case the building was paid for by local subscriptions. There are six cities between 3,000 and 4,000 in population, and four of these have flourishing public libraries, while a fifth one has a good Y. M. C. A. library. Of 122 towns having over 500 and less than 3,000 population, only 15 have public libraries and 18 others have association libraries.

Obviously, this Commission has a great work before it, and the work is largely in laying foundations for future libraries by educating the people to the library idea. This work, of necessity, begins with the schools.

School Libraries.

If Nebraska children are accustomed to the use of well-chosen and wisely administered collections of books at school, the future of libraries, be they public, school, or home libraries, is assured. The citizen of to-day *may* be able to get on somehow without the help or companionship of books; but we shall take care that the citizen of to-morrow, having found how satisfying is this help and companionship, will regard books as an imperative equipment of his town, school, and home.

In our work with schools, we have had constantly in mind the ideals described by Melvil Dewey at the second International library conference in London in 1897. Mr. Dewey said:

"It is almost within our memory that we have come to substantial agreement that the state owes an elementary education to every boy and girl within its limits; not alone as a right to the child, but as a matter of safety and practical wisdom on the part of the state. And this broader conception is followed closely by a second and broader one, that every boy and girl is entitled not only to an elementary education, but to something higher. I have met no competent student of the subject who dares deny that hereafter the state must recognize that education is not alone for the young, for limited courses, in schools which take all of the time of their pupils, but must regard adults as well; and not alone for short courses, but all through life—not in our recognized teaching institutions alone, but in that study outside of office or working hours that may be carried on at home. I may sum it up in one sentence: Higher education for adults at home, through life. In this home education, which must hereafter be recognized side by side with school education, the library is the great central agent round which study clubs, reading circles, extension teaching, museums, and the other allied agencies must cluster."

A forward movement along these lines has been given impetus in the school districts. The school library idea is percolating in every direction.

and intelligent use be
eement of the whole community surrounding the

Library Day.

A detailed program for Library day, October sent from this office to county superintendents for For Library day in 1904, a similar program was and printed in the "Nebraska Teacher," while lett the attention of county and town superintendents to

List of Books.

A graded list of about 500 titles recommended compiled by the Secretary, and printed, with direc purchase of the books. Copies of the list were d city superintendents for their teachers. It is not un write to this office telling how much money is avail books and asking the Secretary to select the books. tendents have instructed their teachers not to purchas consulting this Commission. We have made every c tricts from the fraudulent book concerns that so fr fathers into paying five prices for worthless books made in this direction, but much remains to be done.

There is no adequate way of ascertaining how m ries there are in Nebraska, how many books they money is being spent. Replies received from ques county and city superintendents indicate that conside the districts have any libraries at all, but that the a year for school library books must run up into tho money is largely the result of entertainments, box s nd gifts, occasionally supplemented by

The superintendents and principals of schools in 98 cities and villages report nearly \$4,000 spent last year for library books. It should be remembered that the rural or village school library is quite different in character from the school libraries in the cities having good public libraries. Where there is no other library, the school library serves a general library purpose for the community. Probably the largest and best school district library in the state is that of Pawnee City, but there is no public library in that city, and the school library is doing a double duty. Where there is a good public library, the field of general literature is left to it, while indispensable reference books and supplementary reading are supplied by the school library. These libraries are usually purchased from regular school money. This is the ideal condition, but only a few districts can attain it.

The rural school library must be both reference and circulating, and every effort to make it adequate to its field of service will continue to be put forth by this Commission. To help such schools get the best books for the least money is the constant concern of this office, and many dollars have been directed into profitable and useful channels that might otherwise have been spent for inferior or useless books at exorbitant prices.

Instruction to Teachers.

The use of books being quite as important as their acquisition, much time and earnest effort have been devoted to instructing teachers as to the intelligent use of books. The young person who has seen few books other than the meager school texts is not in a position to make the school library the powerful educational agency that it ought to be.

Five weeks of the summer of 1903 were devoted by the Secretary to instruction on the use of books in the Junior normal schools, and county teachers' institutes. County and district teachers' meetings have also been addressed, books exhibited, and conferences held with teachers at various points in the state.

The results of all this work with schools can not be tabulated. It can only be conjectured from the increasing correspondence with schools and the steady growth of school libraries. That the ultimate end to be attained is one of inestimable importance to the state is beyond dispute. The rural school of to-morrow will have its well-planned and ornamented school yard and garden, properly constructed school buildings with up-to-date methods of lighting, heating, and ventilation, and improved and more decent ideas of sanitation. It will have ample equipment, not the least of which will be a properly selected and intelligently used library. Along this line of progress, this Commission will continue to move, assured that no other field offers more profitable employment for its activities, or promises more benefit for the state.

List of Books for Presents for Children.

A list of books suitable for presents for children was printed and widely distributed in the state, in the hope that better books might find their way into homes. The list was greatly appreciated in the state, and has been called for from a number of other states.

Improvement of Library Management,

The second duty imposed by law upon this Commission is that of improving libraries already established. A marked improvement in library methods is everywhere to be seen. Under the direction of the Secretary, the public libraries of Wayne, Wakefield, Syracuse, Central City, Columbus, Holdrege, and Superior have been accessioned and classified, and better methods of loaning and administration in general inaugurated. Loan systems have been devised for numerous libraries, and many suggestions made to improve the efficiency of both libraries and librarians.

Trained Librarians.

The need of special preparation and fitness for library work is more and more recognized by library boards. That much of this change of sentiment is due to the influence of this Commission there can be no doubt. Literature on the training of librarians, as well as on all topics connected with library administration, has been sent to all library trustees and librarians. Library boards have been asked by the Commission to send their librarians to summer schools of library science, or at least to encourage them to go by giving them leave of absence with pay. In a number of cases this has been done, and Nebraska has been represented in the Iowa and Wisconsin summer schools by seven librarians during the past two years. The librarians of eight of the eleven largest public libraries in the state are especially trained for their work, some of them being regular library school graduates, others having had summer school training, and still others being trained by studying and working in well managed libraries.

This is a remarkably good showing, because, on the part of a number of these librarians, attendance at the summer school can be accomplished only by self-sacrifice. Salaries are not high enough to warrant any such expense, and the prospect of anything better in the way of compensation is not perceptible, with library funds in the state that they promise to remain in until the law permits larger library revenues.

In the still smaller towns, there has also been improvement in administrative methods, largely aided by personal visits from the Secretary.

Library Buildings.

The Carnegie library buildings at Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island, and South Omaha are nearly ready for occupancy, while Fremont and Beatrice have been enjoying their nicely appointed libraries for some time. The Holdrege public library has just accepted \$7,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a building. Other of the smaller towns are about to follow the example of Holdrege, and the coming biennium promises to be an era of library buildings.

Library boards are encouraged to make use of the Commission in the planning and equipment of their buildings. Suggestions as to proper fittings, lighting, ventilation, and other details have been given in a number of cases.

Printed Helps.

To help libraries to select the best books is one of the problems of a library commission. A number of library commissions, chiefly in the middle west, have issued a Suggestive list of books for small libraries, bi-monthly. Buying lists, and a Handbook of library organization. These publications have been distributed by this Commission to all libraries in the state. Frequently a library having money for books sends in for advice as to the usefulness of certain books, or asks to have the books selected by the Secretary. The general character of the books bought is better. The writings of Mary J. Holmes, the "Duchess," and similar authors, are being replaced by more virile and wholesome literature. More and better books for the children are being added to the libraries. To get "the best books for the largest number at the least cost" has been the maxim of the library profession since it attained professional dignity, and Nebraska offers no exception to the general tendency.

Periodicals.

Libraries have been encouraged to collect sets of the leading periodicals as a basis for reference collections. Many valuable periodicals are being used to kindle fires instead of being preserved in libraries. In a number of libraries, acting on our suggestion, periodical collections have been begun, and much useful and almost priceless material thus rescued from destruction. At our office we receive gifts of periodicals and assist libraries in filling out their sets. Whenever the office room and office force of the Commission will permit, this clearing house of periodicals will be greatly extended, and a more systematic collection of this useful material inaugurated. The Wisconsin library commission has saved thousands of dollars to Wisconsin librarians in just this way.

Study Clubs.

Great activity is apparent among the studious people all over the state. Chief among these is the state Federation of women's clubs, whose parental relation to the Library commission gives these clubs an urgent claim on the attention and activities of the Commission. A collection of study outlines is kept in our office for the use of clubs, and many applications for these outlines and for suggestions have been responded to. Lists of books in our special loan collection are sent to all the clubs, and the number of calls for such books is constantly increasing.

Special Loans.

Any Nebraskan who finds that the resources of his own community are inadequate in any given line of study is entitled to our assistance so far as our limited means permit. We have 350 volumes now in the hands of individuals, clubs, and schools for study purposes. A wide range of subjects is covered. One man in Logan county has borrowed books on stock judging and poultry; we sent a Burt county farmer's wife books on child study and domestic topics; a Pawnee county farmer had a number of books on Ameri-

"I am now in good condition & I will be
in 9th grade. Should like to attend the Agri. later. Have never seen in my time the like. Should like to borrow something to help me particularly something to teach about increasing fertility.
Also stock judging, hog raising, tree planting, etc.
What must I do to get a book?"

This letter is as eloquent an argument for me to place before the over the state, if we had but means to find them a they are found, are just such young people, who offer them. What possible investment of money can than one which will increase the value of our b minds and energies of our young people?

This feature of the work is capable of indefinite were not for the books given to us by the Federatio the possibility of sometimes supplementing our res University library, we could not do this work with command. We do not aim at a large collection of except as they are suited to general use, but the prob present possessions is troublesome, and more room is needed. In the future, we expect to greatly e work along practical lines, working in cooperation ners' institutes, women's clubs, state associations, s the end that the arts of comfortable living and intromoted.

Technical Collections.

A beginning of what we expect to see become eternary, medical, technical

Traveling Libraries.

Although the traveling library represents but one of the many activities of this Commission, it is, perhaps, our most successful instrument in the work of library extension. The term "library extension" is interpreted to include everything, from the purchasing of a book by a citizen who has no library in his home, or the substitution of a good book for a poor one on the family book-shelf, to the starting of a school library in a rural school or a public library in a city. Thus it comes that this Commission is just as much interested in awakening the desire for good and useful reading in the remotest home as in encouraging the establishment and correct administration of public libraries. We believe that there is no surer way to inspire people with a desire for good books at home, at school, and in the library than to give the people an opportunity to see and read the best books that the book trade affords. This, then, is the first task set for the traveling library—a task so magnificent in its possibilities that the accomplishment of but a small portion of it would justify the expenditure of all state funds so far devoted to this Commission, as well as affording ample satisfaction to those who have had the work in charge.

The first traveling library was sent out from this office in December, 1901. It went to a barber shop in Loup City, where, during the three months of its stay, 279 books were borrowed. The barber was an intelligent man, and deeply interested in the welfare of his community. He had the true library spirit. If he found a book that he thought would interest some special person, he called that person's attention to it. He read, or looked over all the books and was able to talk about them with the borrowers. We have had many other librarians who were equally interested, and to whose intelligent and helpful spirit has been due, in a large measure, the results that justify our pride, as Nebraskans, in the achievements of the past three years. The librarians of our traveling libraries are not paid for their work as librarians, except in terms of satisfaction in being of service to others. The libraries have been kept in school houses, dwellings, post-offices, stores, depots, hotels, newspaper offices, parsonages, and a variety of other places—and the business men, ministers, teachers, and others who have served as librarians, have responded loyally to the instructions from this office. We have insisted that the use of the books must be free to all members of the community, and that all who get mail or trade in the town are eligible as borrowers. In this way, the books have reached many remote neighborhoods. At intervals, additional suggestions go out from this office.

As soon as the finances of this Commission will permit, some one from this office will systematically visit the places where traveling libraries are located, helping to organize local library associations, and to create interest in the books and extend their usefulness. In time, we expect to emulate the example of the Wisconsin free library commission, and hold library institutes for the benefit of the librarians of our traveling libraries. These are some of the things the traveling library *should* accomplish. It is a mistake to suppose that collections of books, however choice their selection might

have been, can be live factors in education without intelligent and earnest administration. The locomotive is a magnificent creation, but it has to be manipulated with *brains* as well as brawn, or it is of no more use than a heap of scrap iron. The same may be said of libraries. The right book must reach the person who needs it, as well as the one who wants it, if the library is to act as an educational leaven. The lump will remain a lump unless the leaven is properly distributed. We have now 85 traveling libraries in use, and the 85 librarians in charge have so generally caught the spirit of using the library as an educational force that we feel that the time is at hand when personal work with them will prove the efficiency of the leaven, and justify any reasonable demands that this Commission may make upon the state treasury or the generosity of public spirited Nebrascans.

Our traveling libraries have gone to 130 places in 66 counties in the past two years. At this moment, they are visiting places ranging from Pawnee county around to McCook, Bridgeport, Gordon, Laurel, Homer, Waterloo. A number of them are in rural school houses, cross roads stores, and farm houses. They have made 256 round trips, and 64 libraries are now out. During this time 33,147 volumes have been borrowed. The total number of volumes is about 3,400, so that each volume has had an average circulation of 9.7 times. The average number of borrowers in a place is 51, so that the total number of borrowers enrolled in the state is in the neighborhood of 6,500. When it is considered that most of the books borrowed have been read by several persons beside the borrower, in many cases books being read to schools, or aloud at home, it can be seen that our 3,400 books have been made good use of. If we had done nothing but purchase books and administer the traveling libraries, the average cost of buying one book and circulating it 9.7 times would be \$2.94. Anyone at all familiar with library statistics would testify that the money was well spent, provided that the books were of a proper character.

A traveling library, as we make it up, contains 40 volumes, one-fourth of which are fiction for adults, another fourth stories for children, and the balance are history, travel, useful arts, etc., equally divided between children and adults. Experience has proved these proportions. The fiction is most carefully selected. Each library contains some of the old, standard novels, and some of the later, popular books. Many novels of the realistic school that could, with perfect propriety, be put on the shelves of a large city library are omitted from the traveling library. We aim to have nothing that is not wholesome in tone, uplifting in influence, or that will not either instruct or furnish legitimate amusement. Special attention is given to the selection of children's books, for we believe that it pays to give the boys and girls of Nebraska every possible chance. The following letter, received last week from a farm in Otoe county, is evidence of the appreciation given the libraries:

"As you will see, this library has not been patronized as much as they have been. This is because of the work that is so heavy during the last of summer, but when winter comes, everyone turns to the library, and many more have been taken during the last two weeks. Everyone is looking for-

ward to the new library. I don't suppose that you, who work with books all the time, can have any idea how much our library is to us. It is always an exciting day when it arrives, and it is a source of pleasure until a new one comes. Babe is sitting on the lounge now reading 'King Mombo,' trying to finish it before next Saturday. Mr. Hunter has sent down the two special loans, 'Sharp eyes' and 'According to season,' for us to send back with the library. And I wish that you would find a book on zoology to loan specially to us, for Babe and me to read this winter. Also please put in a special loan for Ethel Davis, a book on elementary psychology."

Permanent Traveling Library Stations.

Several small public libraries whose income is exhausted in the expense of administration are permanent stations for traveling libraries. This arrangement gives such libraries fresh books every three months, and so helps them to keep up interest. A permanent station is a place that has paid for one traveling library upon condition that we send a succession of libraries for five years. Harvard, Osceola, Culbertson, Douglas, Murray, Wakefield, Dannebrog, Valley, Laurel, Gordon, Sterling, and Carroll are our permanent stations. The twelve libraries paid for by these communities are among the choicest in our collection, and cost about \$450. Some of these places are schools, the library having been paid for out of school funds. Such a station is a nucleus for a little local library. In a number of places the traveling library has grown into a full fledged public library in an incredibly short time. The presence of the books in the community helps create the desire for more books and for a permanent collection. Beginning with Osceola, a procession of little libraries has been started in this way. Wakefield, Carroll, Talmage, Laurel, DeWitt, and Sterling are among these places.

School Traveling Libraries.

We have had four school traveling libraries in the hands of county superintendents. These books are loaned by the superintendents, in groups of 11 volumes, to districts, in the hopes of interesting teachers and pupils in school libraries and in the expectation that the establishment and better selection of school libraries will result therefrom.

Care of the Books.

At the beginning of the work of this Commission certain gloomy sceptics prophesied that the books in the traveling libraries would gradually be lost through carelessness or dishonesty. It is gratifying to be able to say that in three years, with a record of nearly 40,000 loans, the libraries are all in good condition, and that all books that have been lost or unreasonably damaged have been replaced by the borrowing communities, with the exception of five volumes. Unlike the rules of some other library commissions, no deposit or legal papers are required by us of borrowing communities. We have been satisfied with a simple agreement on the part of the community to "arrange for the proper care and circulation of the books, to make good all loss and damage beyond reasonable wear, and to pay all transportation

charges both ways." We challenge the judgment of any person who impugns the motives of the people of Nebraska.

Contagious Diseases.

Other objectors feared the spread of contagion by means of books. We have had four volumes destroyed by health officers at traveling library stations. These have been paid for by the borrowing communities. By conferring with the State board of health, and with local health officers, and requiring our librarians to follow our instructions, no instance of any spread of contagion can be traced to the traveling libraries.

Rural Library Associations.

Recently a rural library association was formed in a school district in Otoe county, with a traveling library as a foundation for its work. The library is in a farmer's home, and under the intelligent guidance of this man, what splendid work those 40 volumes can do during a winter! If the Secretary of this Commission had but the means and time to organize similar associations all over the state, what a wonderful amount of latent possibility could be developed and directed!

The traveling library is our best appliance for promoting the mission of books, for a good book is ever its own best argument. It is the endeavor of this Commission so to use the traveling library as to encourage the public and private purchase of more and better books by the people of Nebraska. The results of the work already done are only partially tangible—as the best results of all such work can never be a matter of record. The future of this phase of the work is magnificent and inspiring, and has no limit save the boundaries of Nebraska and the provision made by the state for forwarding the work.

Library Legislation.

The rate of progress in library affairs is so satisfactory that we may well wonder whether further legislation is needed. It seems clear, however, that school libraries ought to have some recognized basis, that public libraries should be able to get larger revenues, and that the idea of a system of country libraries should receive consideration and encouragement.

The general trend of opinion among school superintendents, as shown by replies to our questions concerning school libraries, is in favor of a law requiring the setting aside by school boards of a certain per cent of the annual income of the districts for the purchase of library books. There is good reason to doubt, however, whether mandatory legislation of this kind would accomplish what might be hoped from it. It is already lawful, according to a decision of the State Superintendent, to pay for library books from school funds. Many districts are doing this, and many more are raising more money from outside sources than would be possible for their boards to set aside for library books. The State Superintendent is constantly urging the subject of school libraries on the attention of teachers. This Commission has spared no effort to engage the attention of school people, and so

much is being done that it seems as if mandatory legislation might, for the present, be superfluous.

If the new revenue law is finally adjusted so as to increase assessments in cities and villages, the two-mill library levy would probably suffice in the larger towns. Meantime, city councils must be so educated that they will be willing to vote the full two mills to the libraries. Here, again, this Commission will endeavor to aid libraries in the work of attaching public sentiment to themselves.

A county system of libraries is worthy the attention of law makers. Some authority granted to county commissioners to levy a tax to be expended in paying such public libraries as may be established, in order that their privileges may be extended to everybody living in the county, and authorizing village boards, in places unable to support libraries, to levy a tax to be used in paying the nearest good public library for making such places sub-stations for their libraries, would place Nebraska in line with other progressive states.

Field Work.

The greatest need of this Commission is more time and money for field work. During the biennium the Secretary and President have traveled over 3,000 miles in the field work. The Secretary visited Plattsburgh, Omaha, Fremont, McCook, Holdrege, Kearney, North Platte, Sidney, Alliance, Valentine, Syracuse, Central City, Tecumseh, Pawnee City, DeWitt, Columbus, Aurora, Norfolk, Wayne, Wakefield, Geneva, Harvard, and Peru. This sort of travel is a most profitable expenditure of our funds, but, owing to the many activities we are engaged in, we have not been able to come as closely in contact with all parts of the state as it seems desirable to do. At least \$500 more for this purpose alone could be expended during this coming biennium.

Other Library Commissions.

We can not attempt to compete with other states that set aside from \$6,000 to \$75,000 a year for library commission work. We have endeavored to study the needs of Nebraska without regard for the enterprises of our sister commissions, and to apply our limited funds to the best advantage of our state. Massachusetts, New York, and other eastern states give state aid to libraries, have complete systems of library inspection, hold library institutes, and do an immense amount of field work, including the editing and printing of literature on library administration, and send their commission workers to national conferences and to study the methods of other library commissions.

We have aimed to progress gradually along the lines of natural development, and to render the state the largest possible return for the sum given into our charge. In this we have attained a degree of success that merits a further expression of confidence in somewhat increased resources.

	2018
By purchase	
By gift	
Traveling lib. stations	369
Publishers	157
Others	<u>28</u>
Total additions	2572
Previously reported	1888
Total accessions	4460
Duplicates to replace lost or worn out books	
Lost and paid for by others	31
Paid for by Commission	13
Lost by others and replaced by Commission	<u>2</u>
	56

Expenditures for biennial period ending November 1913.

	APPROPRIATION 1901-3, \$40 0	APPROPRIATION 1903-5, \$6000
Salaries	\$ 332.32	\$2658.78
Supplies	355.53	815.90
Books	649.40	1166.05
Travel	55.15	156.07
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1392.40	\$1796.80
Previously expended	2606.60	
	<hr/>	
	\$4000.00	Balance

Publications.

Circular of information

Statistics of Nebraska Traveling Libraries.

Traveling libraries have been sent to the following places:

First congressional district.

NAME OF PLACE	WHERE OR BY WHOM KEPT	NO. OF LIBRARIES SENT
1. Alvo	Woman's club	3
2. Avoca	Congregational parsonage	3
3. Brock	School	4
4. Brock (R. F. D.)	Rural school	3
5. College View	Public library	2
6. *Douglas	Store	7
7. Elk Creek	Rural school	2
8. Lancaster county	County superintendent	1
9. Lancaster county	School district 18	4
10. Lincoln	University farm	1
11. Louisville	School	1
12. Louisville	Public library	1
13. Murdock	Y. M. C. A.	1
14. *Murray	Store	8
15. Normal	School	1
16. Pawnee county	School district 35	1
17. Salem	Editor	3
18. South Bend		1
19. *Sterling	Store	4
20. Syracuse	Public library	7
21. Syracuse (R. F. D.)	School district 10	4
22. Talmage	Public library	1
23. Tecumseh	Public library	1
24. Unadilla	School	3

Second congressional district.

1. Bellevue	School	1
2. Blair	Ward school	1
3. Papillion	Real estate office	6
4. *Valley	Public library	9
5. Waterloo	Woman's club	3
6. Waterloo (R. F. D.)	School district 3	1

Third congressional district.

1. Bancroft	School	1
2. *Carroll	Public library	2
3. Cedar Rapids	Store	5
4. Emerson	Post-office	2
5. Fullerton (R. F. D.)	Farm	2
6. Harold	Flowing well ranch	2
7. Homer	School	1
8. *Laurel	Public library	5
9. Leigh	School	3

*Permanent traveling library stations.

Third congressional district—Con.

NAME OF PLACE	WHERE OR BY WHOM KEPT	NO. OF LIBRARIES SENT
10. Loretto	Depot	5
11. Meadow Grove .....	.....	1
12. Monroe	School	3
13. Neligh	Reading room	1
14. Pender	Public library	4
15. Plainview (R. F. D.)	Store	1
16. Randolph	Woman's club	1
17. Schuyler	Woman's club	1
18. Scribner	Public library	3
19. Silver Creek	Store	1
20. Stanton	Public library	1
21. *Wakefield	Public library	5
22. Winside	Store	1
23. Wisner	Public library	4

Fourth congressional district.

1. Adams	W. C. T. U.	3
2. Ashland	Public library	3
3. Aurora	W. C. T. U.	2
4. Aurora	County superintendent	1
5. Beaver Crossing	Store	1
6. Davenport	School	2
7. DeWitt	Public library	5
8. Diller	School	2
9. Endicott	Rural school	1
10. Endicott	Dwelling	1
11. Exeter	Dwelling	5
12. Fairmont	School	3
13. Friend	School	3
14. Geneva	School	1
15. Germantown	Store	1
16. Liberty	Telephone exchange	4
17. Ohiowa	School	1
18. *Osceola	Public library	7
19. Pleasant Dale	School	4
20. Rising City (R. F. D.)	Farm	2
21. Steele City	Store	1
22. Stromsburg	W. C. T. U.	1
23. Tobias	Book	1
24. Western	School	1
25. Wilber (R. F. D.)	Farm	3
26. Wymore	Store	8

Fifth congressional District

1. Axtell (R. F. D.)	Farm	1
2. Bloomington	County superintendent	1
3. Blue Hill	School	3
4. Clay Center	County superintendent	1

*Permanent traveling library "catalog."

Fifth congressional district—Con.

NAME OF PLACE	WHERE OR BY WHOM KEPT	NO. OF LIBRARIES SPNT
5. *Culbertson	Barber shop	7
6. Elwood	Post-office	1
7. Grand Island	County superintendent	1
8. Haigler	School	3
9. *Harvard	Y. M. C. A.	6
10. Hastings (R. F. D.)	Farm	2
11. Hayes Center	County superintendent	1
12. Holbrook	School	1
13. Holdrege	Junior normal	2
14. Holdrege	School	1
15. Huntley	Post-office	2
16. Imperial	School	2
17. Kenesaw	Post-office	7
18. McCook	School	1
19. McCook	Junior normal	2
20. McCook	Public library	7
21. Nelson	School	4
22. Oxford	Public library	1
23. Palisade	Rural school	2
24. Phelps county	Farm	1
25. Riverton	Rural school	1
26. Stamford	Dwelling	2
27. Stamford	School district 10	3
28. Superior	School	1
29. Upland	Rural school	1

Sixth congressional district.

1. Alliance	County superintendent	1
2. Alliance	School	1
3. Brewster	Store	1
4. Bridgeport	Bank	5
5. *Dannebrog	School	7
6. Elm Creek	School	3
7. *Gordon	Telephone exchange	5
8. Kimball	County superintendent	2
9. Gothenburg	W. C. T. U.	2
10. Lexington	Store	2
11. Loup City	Store	3
12. Luella	Dwelling	2
13. Minatare	Dwelling	3
14. North Platte	County superintendent	1
15. Overton	School	3
16. Purdum	Dwelling	2
17. St. Paul	Woman's club	1
18. Scotts Bluff	School	3
19. Springview	Post-office	2
20. Trenton	Editor	3

*Permanent traveling library stations.

Sixth congressional district—Con.

NAME OF PLACE	WHERE OR BY WHOM KEPT	NO. OF LIBRARIES SENT
21. Valentine	Junior normal	1
22. Valentine	County superintendent	1
23. Valentine	School	1

Summary.

85 libraries have been to 130 places in 66 counties.

They have made 285 round trips.

The average number of borrowers in a place is 51.

3,400 volumes have a reported circulation of 33,147 in two years.

12 permanent traveling library stations have been established.

631 volumes have been sent as special loans to 78 places.

Public Libraries of Nebraska.

A public library is one that is established by ordinance under the state law.

	TOWN	Year Established	Population	No. of Volumes	No. of Borrowers
1	Albion.....	1900	1269	1870	400
2	Ashland	1904	1477	355	174
3	Beatrice	1893	7875	8500	4000
*4	Central City	1891	1571	1500	...
5	College View.....	....	865	75	25
6	Columbus.....	1901	3522	1450	800
7	Crete	1873	2193	4000	...
8	David City.....	1890	1815	2364	500
9	DeWitt	1904	602	...	...
10	Fairbury.....	1900	1310	1523	1195
11	Falls City.....	1901	3022	2573	156
12	Fremont.....	1901	7241	3532	2544
13	Grand Island	1884	7754	8064	1355
14	Hastings.....	1887	7188	2500	...
15	Holdrege.....	1895	3067	1020	381
16	Humboldt	1883	1215	4000	180
17	Kearney.....	1890	5634	4063	750
18	Lincoln.....	1877	40169	16775	11142
19	Louisville	1901	738	266	120
20	McCook	1902	2445	2409	1485
22	Nebraska City	1896	7380	3987	310
23	Omaha	1877	102555	57854	14414
24	Osceola.....	1901	882	215	125
25	Plattsmouth	1886	4964	4085	1000
26	Scribner.....	1900	827	508	285
27	Seward	1885	1970	1430	200
28	Shelton.....	1898	861	800	450
29	South Omaha	1902	25601	2029	...
30	Sterling	1901	782	...	...
31	Syracuse.....	1898	851	1200	185
32	Tidmore.....	1901	489	363	99
33	Tecumseh	1894	2005	1500	...
34	Wakefield	1902	155	500	760
35	Wiener	1903	963	54	218
36	York	1894	5132	3784	1422

*This library, having been twice destroyed by fire, has once more organized.

**Association and Other Public Libraries not Supported by
Taxation.**

	TOWN	NAME OF LIBRARY	Year established	No of volumes
1	Blair	Blair assoc. library	1890	1275
2	Bridgeport	Pubic library	1903	...
3	Broken Bow	Ladies' library association	1896	1500
4	Carroll	Public library	1904	...
5	Chadron	City library	1888	650
6	Crawford	Pound memorial library .....	....	800
7	Edgar	Ladies' library association .....	....	...
8	Fairbury	Jefferson county teachers' library	1887	1150
9	Fullerton	Nance county teachers' library	1902	...
10	Geneva	H. L. Smith library	1895	1187
11	Harvard	Y. M. C. A. library .....	....	...
12	Hebron	Teachers' library	1888	...
13	Kearney	W. C. T. U. hospital library	1881	1000
14	Neligh	Public library	1904	...
15	North Platte	R. R. Y. M. C. A. library	1890	2500
16	Omaha	Y. M. C. A. library .....	....	1500
17	Omaha	Swedish library association	1879	800
18	Pender	Public library	1904	...
19	Pleasanton	Pleasanton library	1901	112
20	Stanton	Stanton library association	1902	900
21	Superior	Ladie's library association	1884	2250
22	Sutton	Sutton library association	1902	300
23	Valley	Public library	1902	157
24	Waterloo	Public library	1903	300
25	Wayne	Public library	1903	1060

College and Academy Libraries.

	TOWN	NAME OF SCHOOL	Year established	No. of volumes
1	Bellevue	Bellevue college	1884	5150
2	Bethany	Cotner university	1891	2189
3	Blair	Dana college .....	.....	2000
4	Chadron	Chadron academy .....	.....	1000
5	College View	Union college	1891	3000
6	Crete	Doane college	1872	9424
7	Franklin	Franklin academy	1887	4386
8	Fremont	Fremont normal college .....	.....	.....
9	Geneva	State industrial school for girls	1892	300
10	Grand Island	Grand Island college	1894	5000
11	Hastings	Hastings college	1882	4000
12	Lincoln	University of Nebraska	1869	65000
13	Neligh	Gates academy	1881	5000
14	Omaha	Brownell Hall	1866	1600
15	Omaha	Creighton college .....	.....	11943
16	Omaha	Presbyterian theological seminary	1892	5000
17	Omaha	Nebraska school for the deaf	1896	1600
18	Peru	Nebraska state normal school	1878	13000
19	Santee	Santee normal training school .....	.....	1500
20	Univ. Place	Nebraska Wesleyan University	1883	3000
21	Wahoo	Luther academy	1883	3000
22	Wayne	Nebraska normal college	1892	2400
23	Weeping Water	Weeping Water academy	1894	1400
24	York	York college	1895	1500

State Libraries not Already Mentioned.

	TOWN	NAME OF LIBRARY	Year established	No. of volumes
1	Grand Island	Nebraska soldiers' home	1890	1500
2	Lincoln	Nebraska state library	1867	46000
3	Lincoln	Nebraska state hist. society library	1878	24000
4	Lincoln	Nebraska penitentiary	1903	2000



OSCOOLA PUBLIC LIBRARY.



PERMANENT TRAVELING LIBRARY STATION DOUGLAS



TRAVELING LIBRARY IN AN ADAMS COUNTY FARM HOUSE.

and Association Libraries with Reference to Population

8000 population	1000 to 2000 population—Con.
:e	†Hebron
nt	*Humboldt
Island	Lexington
gs	Madison
:y	Minden
ika City	†Neligh
nouth	North Bend
	Oakland
4000 population	O'Neill
bus	Ord
ry	Pawnee
City	Ponca
:ge	Red Cloud
k	St. Paul
Platte	*Seward
3000 population	Sidney
:e	†Stanton
i	Stromsburg
	†Superior
	†Sutton
	Tekamah
	Univ. Place
k	Weeping Water
er	West Point
seh	Wilber
	800 to 1000 population
re	Alma
2000 population	Beaver Crossing
	Blue Hill
d	Cambridge
	*College View
	Creighton
l Bow	Decatur
l City	Genoa
m	Gothenburg
City	Hartington
	†Harvard
on	Hooper
	Humphrey
ck	Loup City
	Lyons

blic Library.
sociation Library.

800 to 1000 population—Con.

Nelson
*Osceola
†Pender
Perry
Randolph
Ravenna
Rulo
*Scribner
†Shelton
South Sioux City
*Syracuse
Table Rock
Valentine
*Werner

500 to 800 population

Ainsworth
Arapahoe
Arlington
Atkinson
†Bancroft
Battle Creek
Benson
Bloomfield
Blue Springs
Brock
Brownville
Cedar Rapids
†Clarks
Clay Center
Cozad
†Crawford
Dakota City
*DeWitt

500 to 800 population—Con.

Dodge
Elmwood
Fairmont
Florence
Franklin
Gibbon
Gordon
Greeley Center
Greenwood
Howell
Indianola
Juniata
Kenesaw
†Laurel
*Louisville
Milford
Newman Grove
Oakdale
Orleans
Osmond
†Oxford
Papillion
Pierce
Plainview
St. Edward
Salem
Sterling
Tilden
Tobias
Ulysses
†Valley
Walkerville
Wood River
Valparaiso

Gifts and Bequests.

During the past two years the only gifts of any magnitude are Andrew Carnegie to the public libraries of Beatrice, Hastings, Kearney Grand Island; Beatrice receiving \$10,000 ; dollars for a building, Ha and Grand Island receiving \$20,000 each for a building, and Kearney receiving \$10,000 for a building.

*Public Library.

†Association Library.

2

THIRD BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

F. L. HALLER, President,
Omaha Public Library.

E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS,
Chairman of the University of Nebraska

F. L. McBRIDE,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

H. C. LINNISAN
State Librarian.

DR. WALTER P. LEWIS
Editor of the "Nebraska Librarian."

C. H. COOPER, Secretary.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY, GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA



PUBLIC LIBRARY, HASTINGS, NEBRASKA

*Nebraska Public Library Commission
10/1/13 ✓*

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, November 30, 1906.

To His Excellency, John H. Mickey, Governor of Nebraska:

As required by law, I have the honor to present herewith the third biennial report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission.

Very respectfully yours,

F. L. HALLER,
President Nebraska Public Library Commission.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Nebraska Public Library Commission was created by a law which went into effect June 28, 1901, and active work was begun the following November.

The first five years of the life of the Commission has been a period of unusual activity in library interests in the state. The number of public libraries has increased from 26 to 55. Interest has been aroused in many communities which, while it has not yet resulted in the establishing of libraries is sure to do so in time. Handsome library buildings have been built in Lincoln, Falls City, Fremont, Beatrice, Kearney, Hastings, Grand Island and South Omaha. The methods of administration in the older libraries have been improved. The State Library Association, which formerly consisted of a handful of people who gathered together as an adjunct of the State Teacher's Association for a one afternoon session, now numbers in its meetings from fifty to seventy-five.

The number of trained librarians in Nebraska in 1901 was perhaps four. Now there are thirteen who have had regular courses in library schools and seven who have taken summer courses.

The first traveling library was sent out in December 1901. We now have 106 libraries of from forty to fifty volumes each. A review of the past five years is encouraging and the outlook for the future most promising.

Public Library Commission.

The Public Library Commission and the state of Nebraska sustained a severe loss in the departure of Mr. James I. Wyer, who left the University of Nebraska in January, 1905 to become reference librarian of the New York State Library and vice-director of the New York State Library School. He was one of the most active workers in establishing the Commission, was president from its organization, and always stood ready with his wide knowledge and helpful spirit to further the library interests of the whole state. Dr. Walter K. Jewell succeeded Mr. Wyer in May 1906.

On April 1st, 1906, Miss Edna D. Bullock resigned as secretary, her resignation taking effect the first of July. Miss Bullock had been secretary of the Commission since the beginning and had ably effected the organization of its work. With little assistance and a very small appropriation she had yet brought the work to a degree of efficiency of which the state may well be proud. In accepting her resignation the Commission passed the following resolution;

"In accepting the resignation of Miss Edna D. Bullock, who has been secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission since the inception of its enterprise, said commission cordially testifies to the fidelity, ability, industry and success with which Miss Bullock has discharged the arduous duties incident to the founding and spread of the Commission work in the state."

Miss Charlotte Templeton of Omaha, was elected secretary to succeed Miss Bullock and Miss Guess Humphrey of Pawnee City was made assistant secretary to fill the place of Mrs. Catherine Millar, resigned.

Gifts and Bequests.

The reports of libraries show many gifts of books, periodicals, furniture and money from public spirited citizens. By a bequest from the late Frank Murphy, the Omaha Public Library received \$10,000. Neligh's citizens have given \$945 to the library; the library at Havelock has received a gift of \$100 for books from G. W. Rhodes; the P. E. O. society has donated \$100 to the York Public Library; the Beatrice High School has turned over to the Public Library its collection of 550 volumes; the Tecumseh Library will receive \$300 from the estate of the late Mrs. Brandon. There have been completed during the biennium the following public library buildings given by Andrew Carnegie: one at Grand Island for \$20,000, one at Hastings for \$15,000, one at Kearney for \$10,000, and one at South Omaha for \$50,000. Havelock and Holdrege have each received buildings from Mr. Carnegie at a cost of \$6,000 and \$7,000 respectively, which will be ready for occupancy this winter. McCook has a good site and the plans are being made for a \$10,000 Carnegie building.

Appropriations.

The legislature of 1905 appropriated \$6,000 for the Public Library Commission. While this was not as much as the Commission had asked for and was quite inadequate for all the extension planned, by the practice of strict economy, it was sufficient to maintain the work already undertaken. The work has now grown to such proportions, however, that a larger appropriation is absolutely necessary if the Commission is to fill its place in the educational life of the state.

Public Libraries.

A number of libraries have been established during the biennium. At Pawnee City although a Carnegie library proposition and a town tax was voted down, a library association has furnished two rooms, bought a good lot of books and opened a free library. It is in charge of a competent librarian and is open every day and evening.

Geneva passed a library ordinance, accepted the offer of Dr. H. L. Smith to turn over the H. L. Smith library and to donate the use of a convenient room for the use of the library, has appointed a librarian and will formally open its Public Library on January 1, 1907.

The library at Neligh started by women's clubs, became a free public library with a one mill tax levy in 1905. Rooms in the city hall are used.

Wood River opened a public library in the spring of 1906. The use of rooms was donated by a citizen and books were given by others.

A library ordinance was passed in the spring of 1905 at Havelock. Rooms were secured and the library established. Now they have a Carnegie building costing \$6000 almost ready for occupancy.

At Norfolk, Minden and Fairfield library associations have been formed and libraries started although as yet no city tax has been voted. At Madison Nelson and several other places a library movement is on foot.

Traveling Libraries.

The traveling library was one of the first branches of work to be taken up by the Commission in 1901, the first library being sent out in December of that year to Loup City, Sherman county. From this beginning the work has gradually grown until at present there are 106 traveling libraries. In the last biennium these libraries have been sent to 177 different communities, village and rural, in 69 counties of the state. They have traveled as far west as Kimball and Caldwell, north to Anoka, Boyd county and have been well distributed in the central, southern and eastern parts of the state.

The 4342 volumes in the libraries have circulated about 32,363 times, as far as can be determined from the reports sent in by the librarians. The reports also show that 5160 individuals have signed borrower's application cards. These figures do not show the entire circulation as often when the library is in a school the pupils read the books in the building and no record is kept of this and in the public libraries the books are used by patrons of the library, who do not sign a separate application card for the books in the traveling libraries.

The general traveling libraries are composed of from forty to fifty volumes of miscellaneous books, fiction, history, biography, useful arts, etc., for adults and children. In addition to these there are several school libraries containing books for children only, books of general interest and for supplementary reading. The books have been most carefully selected, that the best literature may be given to the people. This is especially true of the books for the children, for it is felt that in the child must be planted the love of good literature which will increase as time goes on and the reading of the man will be assured. Often at the request of the borrowers other books are included, books for those interested in special subjects, a larger number of children's books or extra books of fiction and of general reading when the majority of readers in a community are adults.

These libraries are loaned to any community which guarantees the proper use and safe return of the books, the only expense to the borrowers being the transportation charges from Lincoln and return. The libraries are kept in the small public libraries, in village and county stores, private houses in towns and on the farms, and in schools, graded and rural.

Permanent Traveling Library Stations.

There are several communities in the state which have become permanent stations. By the payment of \$40 for one traveling library a community gains the privilege of having a succession of libraries for five years. At the present time there are 14 permanent stations: Carroll, Culbertson, Dannebrog, Douglas, Gothenburg, Harvard, Laurel, Murray, Osceola, Sterling, Talmage, Valley, Wakefield and Wood River. The Gordon station was discontinued this year.

The value of the traveling libraries is inestimable. By means of them the people all over the state, owning few books and far away from library facilities may become acquainted with the best books of the best authors and learn what great enjoyment and profit can come from books, and in many cases our public libraries trace their beginnings to the traveling libraries.

Special Loans.

It is well to supply the demand for general reading with the traveling library but there is another call made upon the Commission with more and more frequency which must be satisfied as far as we are able. This is the request of the student for material on a special subject. It comes from the club woman, the teacher, the high school debator and the individual student and, thanks to the careful selection of our special loan collection and to the unfailing courtesy of the State Library and the Library of the State University, it is rare that we have nothing to send. We have circulated 1,230 volumes as individual loans during the biennium. This work is capable of indefinite extension and is of inestimable value.

School Libraries.

A great deal of effort has been put forth by the Commission in behalf of school libraries. There is no law requiring school districts to purchase books other than text books, although the ruling has been made that school funds may be so spent. The popular way of raising money for school libraries is by entertainments and box socials. The money once raised, the question of selection comes up, and it is here that the Commission is doing some of its best work. The graded list compiled by Miss Bullock, of 500 books suitable for school libraries is distributed freely among the teachers. Many talks have been given by the Secretary at teacher's institutes and normal schools and a great deal of correspondence on the subject of book selection has been carried on. Requests from teachers for assistance in this matter come in constantly, and frequently the selection is left in the hands of the Secretary. "We have \$25.00 for books for our rural school library. What shall we buy?" is the common demand.

In a rural state like Nebraska where towns are small and a long way apart, the district school library must often take the place of a public library and furnish reading not only for the children but also for the young people who have left school and for the fathers and mothers. Teachers and superintendents are very generally awakened to the great possibilities in a group of well selected books and the past two years has been a period of great activity in building up school libraries.

Publications.

In February, 1906, the Commission issued its first number of the Nebraska Library Bulletin, a publication devoted to the interests of Nebraska libraries, to be published three or four times a year and sent free to every librarian and library trustee in the state. The first numbers have been most cordially received and we hope to make this a really helpful feature of our work.

In January the Commission published a Farm Circular giving a list of the books in the special loan department on farm topics and domestic economy, subjects in which the library is particularly strong.

The Commission subscribes for enough copies of the A. L. A. Booklist to send one to every library in the state. This list, published monthly by the American Library Association at a very small cost, consists of carefully selected titles with good notes. The books most desirable for first purchase in the small libraries are indicated by a star.

State Library Association.

No meeting of the Nebraska Library Association was held in 1904 because of the A. L. A. meeting in St. Louis. In December, 1905, the Association held its eleventh annual meeting in Lincoln with a large attendance. Miss L. E. Stearns of Wisconsin was the guest of the Association and was an inspiration to Nebraska librarians. The officers chosen for 1906 were: President, G. H. Thomas of McCook; first vice-president, Miss Fannie Geer of Columbus; second vice-president, Miss Mary K. Ray of Kearney; secretary, Miss Nellie J. Compton of Lincoln; treasurer, Miss Margaret O'Brien of Omaha.

Looking to the Future.

We have among our taxpayers many foreigners, principally Germans, Bohemians, Danes and Swedes. For those who do not read English at all, for those who do not use it readily enough to find English books a source of real pleasure and for others who know the language but who wish to widen their knowledge of the literature of their mother country and foster a love for it in their children, we should provide foreign books as soon as our funds permit. These could be loaned to the small libraries whose limited book funds do not admit the purchase of foreign books; they could be sent out in traveling libraries and I know of several rural schools where the books could be circulated among the parents of the pupils.

The Commission could with profit make up a number of study libraries for the use of clubs in towns having few or no library facilities. These should cover such subjects as are usual and profitable for club work: American art, American literature, Colonial history, Shakespeare, etc., and could be sent to the club for a small fee for its use during the club year.

In going about among teachers I am impressed with the general ignorance of children's literature. There should be a course of lectures on the subject in the State Normal Schools together with some instruction in the use of reference books and the care of school libraries.

APPENDIX.

Financial Report, Nov. 30, 1904—Nov. 30, 1906.

RECEIPTS

Balance, Nov. 30, 1904, Appropriation, 1903-5,	\$1203.20
Appropriation, 1905-07	<u>6000.00</u>
	\$7203.20

DISBURSEMENTS, Nov. 30, 1904,—Nov. 30, 1906

Salaries	\$3363.47
Books	602.83
Travel	352.40
Printing	385.03
Binding	182.98
Supplies	538.86
Furniture	15.23
Boxes	<u>64.60</u>
Balance	\$5505.40
	<u>1697.80</u>
	\$7203.20

Books added during the biennium.

By purchase	912
By gift	
Traveling lib. stations	124
Publishers	50
Others	6
Total additions	<u>1092</u>
Previously reported	<u>4460</u>
Total accessions	5552
Duplicates to replace lost or worn out books.	
Lost and paid for by others	59
Paid for by Commission	16
Lost by others and paid for by Commission	8
Not replaced	<u>5</u>
	88

STATISTICS OF NEBRASKA TRAVELING LIBRARIES

TOWN	COUNTY	WHERE KEPT	No. Li- braries sent	Read- ers	Circu- lation
Adams	Gage	Store	4	68	559
Alliance	Boxbutte	Junior Normal	2	—	88
Anoke	Boyd	—	1	—	—
Anselmo	Custer	—	1	—	—
Arcadia	Valley	Farm	1	14	22
Ashland	Saunders	Public Library	7	34	693
Auburn	Nemaha	School	3	75	374
Aurora	Hamilton	School	3	35	204
Axtell	Kearney	Farm	2	7	89
Bancroft	Cuming	School	4	69	464
Bega	Stanton	School	1	10	78
Bellwood	Butler	Library	1	—	—
Bennington	Douglas	School	2	35	541
Bennington	Douglas	School district 32	1	—	—
Bertrand	Phelps	—	1	—	—
Bethany	Lancaster	School	1	50	156
Blair	Washington	School	3	64	280
Blair	Washington	School district 29	3	—	74
Brainard	Butler	School	1	—	—
Bridgeport	Cheyenne	Bank	2	35	170
Broken Bow	Custer	School	2	33	111
Burr	Otoe	School	1	26	72
Caldwell	Scotts Bluff	Post office	1	16	52
Callaway	Custer	—	1	—	—
Callaway	Custer	Farm	2	12	169
Cambridge	Furnas	School	1	—	210
*Carroll	Wayne	Library	8	50	509
Central City	Merrick	—	1	—	—
Chadron	Dawes	School	2	41	204
Cheney	Lancaster	Doctor's office	2	24	29
Clarks	Merrick	School	1	—	133
Clatonia	Gage	Private house	1	10	16
Cody	Cherry	Newspaper office	1	16	90
Coleridge	Cedar	Store	2	15	27
College View	Lancaster	School	1	17	167
Comstock	Custer	Barber shops	1	—	—
Comstock	Custer	School	1	—	—
Concord	Dixon	—	1	9	58
Crawford	Dawes	School	1	—	45
*Culbertson	Hitchcock	Barber shop	8	40	663
Dakota	Dakota	—	1	—	—
*Dannebrog	Howard	School	8	121	600
Denton	Lancaster	School	1	—	—
Denton	Lancaster	School district 136	1	30	56
DeWitt	Saline	Public Library	3	15	61
Diller	Jefferson	Public Library	5	56	600
Dixon	Dixon	—	1	—	—
*Douglas	Otoe	Store	8	134	701
Elgin	Antelope	—	1	—	—
Elgin	Antelope	—	—	—	—
Elk Creek	Johnson	School	3	30	248
Elm Creek	Buffalo	School	1	17	42
Emerson	Dixon	Post office	3	56	326
Endicott	Jefferson	School	2	29	286

ATISTICS OF NEBRASKA TRAVELING LIBRARIES—Continued.

OWN	COUNTY	WHERE KEPT	No. Li- braries sent	Read- ers	Circu- lation
r	Fillmore	Private house	1		13
old	Clay	Jewelry store	1	69	158
nelle	Washington		1		
Crook	Sarpy	School	4	67	728
i	Saline	School	3	100	316
i	Saline	Reading room	2	17	113
i	Nance	Private house	1		
n	Buffalo	School	1		110
on	Sheridan	Telephone office	5	40	276
enburg	Dawson	Private house	5	195	568
wood	Perkins	School	1	45	113
ard	Cass	School	1		24
ock	Clay	Public Library	8	30	521
an	Lancaster	Public Library	10		1087
nan	Washington	School	4	40	434
ook	Lancaster	School	4		
ege	Furnace		1		
ey	Phelps	Junior Normal	12		42
ey	Dodge	Newspaper office	1	35	135
ns	Wayne	Drug store	7	50	599
ey	Harlan	Post office	1	30	29
ney	Saunders	School	1		
law	Buffalo	Watson's Ranch	1		
ard	Adams	Post office	7	176	918
all	Washington	School	3	36	237
ster Co.	Kimball	Co. Supt. office	3	31	125
el	Lancaster	School district 18	1	24	49
l	Cedar	Printing office	8	70	1459
l	Cedar		1		
ence	Nuckolls	Private house	2	10	32
ion	Red Willow	School	1		102
ton	Colfax	School	2	24	125
ton	Pawnee	Drug store	1		117
gton	Dawson	Store	2	38	163
gton	Dawson	School	5	45	648
ty	Gage	Private house	3	10	133
od	Butler	School	2	73	609
od	Butler	Rural school	1		62
Pine	Brown	School	1		
to	Boone	Depot	1	56	83
ville	Cass	Store	3	30	373
a	Sheridan	Private house	1		
s	Burt	School	1	37	97
ok	Red Willow	Public Library	5	42	261
ok	Red Willow	Junior Normal	3		72
—	Saunders	School	1	28	79
—	Saunders	School district 114	1		55
—	Saunders	School district 22	1		
phis	Saunders	Private house	1	11	180
gan	Fillmore		3		325
are	Scotts Bluff	Office	2		277
oe	Platte	School	3	45	
en	Hooker		1		

STATISTICS OF NEBRASKA TRAVELING LIBRARIES—Continued.

TOWN	COUNTY	WHERE KEPT	No. Li-braries sent	Read-ers	Circu-lation
Murdock	Cass	Bank	3	40	97
*Murray	Cass	Drug store	8	—	418
Nacora	Dakota	School	1	—	—
Nehawka	Cass	Store	1	—	—
Nehawka	Cass	School	1	—	—
Neligh	Antelope	School	1	23	41
Newcastle	Dixon	School	6	40	425
Norfolk	Madison	—	1	—	—
Normal	Lancaster	School	3	60	649
Oak	Nuckolls	—	1	—	59
Oakdale	Antelope	Private house	4	34	176
Oconto	Custer	—	1	—	—
Ohiowa	Fillmore	School	2	—	273
Orchard	Antelope	Telephone office	1	48	154
Ord	Valley	School	1	—	—
*Osceola	Polk	Drug store	4	114	192
Overton	Dawson	Furniture store	1	39	58
Oxford	Furnas	Public Library	4	25	263
Oxford via Stamford	Farnas	Private house	1	—	21
Panama	Lancaster	—	1	—	—
Papillion	Sarpy	Office	2	107	359
Pender	Thurston	Public Library	9	61	787
Pierce	Pierce	Private house	1	—	—
Pleasant Dale	Seward	School	3	85	302
Ponca	Dixon	Co. Supt. office	2	17	29
Purdum via Halsey	Blaine	Private house	1	58	20
Quick	Frontier	Store	1	—	—
Ravenna	Buffalo	Private house	1	28	99
Rising City	Butler	Farm	3	20	229
Sargent	Custer	—	1	—	—
Sartoria	Buffalo	School district 116	1	22	65
Scotia	Greeley	School	1	—	—
Scribner	Dodge	School district 74	1	—	—
Shickley	Fillmore	School	1	42	119
Smithfield	Gosper	Post office	1	25	74
S. Auburn	Nemaha	School district 50	1	10	115
Spalding	Greeley	Beatrice Creamery station	3	18	194
Spencer	Boyd	—	1	—	—
Sprague	Lancaster	Office	1	—	—
Springfield	Sarpy	Drug store	3	149	25
Stamford	Harlan	School	2	25	66
Staplehurst	Seward	School	2	—	318
*Sterling	Johnson	Public Library	8	100	801
Strang	Fillmore	Store	2	35	209
Summerfield, Kas.	Marshall	School district 76	1	14	58
Superior	Nuckolls	School	2	—	78
Surprise	Merrick	Private house	3	16	225
Sutherland	Lincoln	School	2	33	101
Syracuse	Otoe	Library	7	152	584
Syracuse	Otoe	Private house	7	18	232
Table Rock	Pawnee	Private house	3	—	—
*Talmage	Otoe	Public Library	8	270	675
Talmage	Otoe	Farm	1	—	—
Union	Cass	Private house	2	30	133

STATISTICS OF NEBRASKA TRAVELING LIBRARIES—*Continued.*

TOWN	COUNTY	WHERE KEPT	No. Li-braries sent	Read-ers	Circu-lation
Plank	Franklin	School	1	36	97
Valentine	Cherry	Junior normal	2	—	8
Valley	Douglas	Private house	7	164	717
Vaco	York	School	1	25	201
Vahoo	Saunders	School	2	30	86
Wakefield	Dixon	Public library	6	—	55
Washington	Washington	School	1	—	—
Waterbury	Dixon	School	1	31	135
Waterloo	Douglas	Reading room	2	40	841
Vausa	Knox	School	3	80	217
Waverly	Lancaster	—	1	—	—
Westerville	Custer	Private house	1	14	42
Williams	Thayer	—	1	—	—
Wilsonville	Furnas	—	1	—	—
Wood River	Hall	Public library	8	135	890

*Permanent traveling library station.

SUMMARY

106 traveling libraries have made 429 trips.

They have been to 177 places in 69 counties.

4342 volumes have a reported circulation of 32,780.

Three new permanent stations have been established, making 15 in all.

1230 volumes have been sent as special loans to 143 places.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF NEBRASKA

PLACE	POP.	Year est.	INCOME			EXPENDITURES			No. of vols. in circula- tion	No. of bor- rowers	LIBRARIAN	
			TAX	Other Sources	TOTAL	Salaries	Books	Other Expenses				
Albion	1269	1901	\$ 500.00	\$ 249.50	\$ 749.50	\$ 500.00	\$ 178.00	\$ 250.00	2800	900	Mrs. M. E. McGill	
Ashland	1477	1904	66.00	2300.00	2366.00	315.50	132.00	123.50	875	385	Ida J. Hollister	
Beatrice	7875	1893				2300.00	1020.00	518.11	761.89	9570	2536	Alice D. McKee
Blair	2970	1880							1000	50	Mabel Cloar	
Carroll	252	1904	200.00		200.00	25.00	50.00	50.00	300	100	Mrs. J. H. Melick	
aCentral City	1571	r891				100.00	26.00			1500		
College View	865					100.00	360.00	222.51	273.33	400	88	Mrs. Libbie Collins
Columbus	3522	1901	781.85		781.85	250.00	126.00	100.00	24.00	1984	1161	Mrs. Fanny Geer
Crete	2199	1878	250.00		250.00	175.00	52.00	100.00	25.00	3130	750	Margaret Dick
David City	1845	1891	175.00		175.00	361.00	26.00	300.00	35.00	2524	300	Mae McCoy
DeWitt	662	1904	300.00		300.00					800	200	Hazel Dunn
Douglas	253	1901								112	150	Mrs. G. J. Steele
#Edgar	1040											Mrs. M. E. Donahoo
aFairbury	3140	1900								650	50	
*Fairfield	1203	1905										
Falls City	3022	1902										
Fremont	7441	1901										
Geneva	1534	1906										
Grand Island	7534	1884										
Hastings	7188	1887										
Havelock	1480	1904										
Holdrege	3907	1894										
Humboldt	1218	1890										
Kearney	534	1890										
Lincoln	40169	1875										
*Louisville	738	1901										
McCook	2445	1902										
Minden	1238	1906										

PLACE	POP.	Year est.	INCOME			EXPENDITURES			No. of Vol., Circula- tion	LIBRARIAN
			TAX	Other Sources	TOTAL	SALARIES	BOOKS	OTHER EXPENSES		
Nebraska City	7,380	1896	\$ 1100.00	\$ 1100.00	\$ 2200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	5321	745
Neligh	1135	1905	150.00	727.56	\$ 877.56	78.00	674.56	125.00	1050	650 ^a
* Norfolk	3833	1906				50.00	30.00	84.00	460	Mrs. Carrie Jones Mrs. Robert Utter
Omaha	102555	1877	20000.00		20000.00	10814.00	4672.00	4411.00	67937	12203
* Orchard	180	1898				5.00	11.00		350	2000 ^b
Osceola	882	1901				40.00			350	Mrs. M. H. Sherman G. T. Ray
* Pawnee City	1969	1906				240.00			820	Mrs. Jessie Harding Elma Wachter
Pender	943	1904							934	
Plattsmouth	4964	1893	480.00		480.00				4307	1304
Pleasanton	103	1901							224	50
Scribner	827	1900							791	330
Seward	1970	1886	400.00		400.00	10.8.00	110.00		2279	1400 ^b
a Shelton	861	1898							800	450
South Omaha	26001	1902	5000.00		5000.00	1595.00	2380.00	1025.00	4410	2395
* Stanton	1052	1888				110.37	103.49	33.00	1500	2600 ^b
Sterling	782	1904	100.00		100.00	60.00	20.00	24.00	320	Mrs. C. G. Clough
* Superior	1577	1884				125.00	75.00	50.00	2295	175
Syracuse	861					195.00			1295	350
Talmage	489	1944	200.00		200.00	40.00	60.00		450	230
Tecumseh	2005		300.00		300.00	199.15	77.24	43.21	1580	4564 ^b
** Valley	534	1912		60.00	60.00	52.00			214	Mrs. C. A. Lyons
Wakefield	755	1902		100.00	100.00	168.00	42.00	30.00	650	2600 ^b
** Waterloo	345	1902					40.00	60.00	185	Robert Neitzel
* Wayne	2119	1902					100.00	100.00	1161	35
a Wisner	963	1903							514	Virginia Cunningham
Wood River	589	1906	200.00		200.00				375	218
York	5132	1894	1159.00		1159.00	456.00	297.00	247.44	40000	1169
									1700	11966

*Subscription library. **Free library supported by association.

a No report received.

b Jan. 1, 1905—Sept. 1, 1906.

COLLEGE AND ACADEMY LIBRARIES.

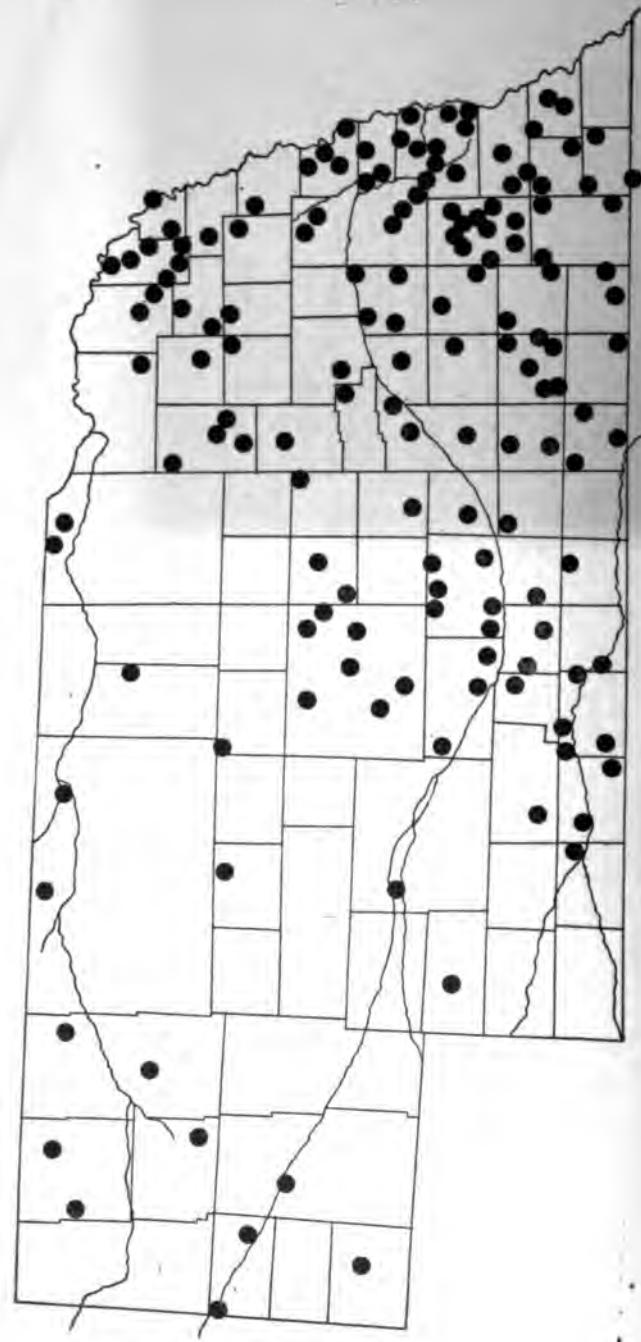
TOWN	NAME OF SCHOOL	Year established	No. of Volumes	LIBRARIAN
Bellevue	Bellevue College	1884	5217	Rachel Ferguson
Bethany	Cotner University	1888	2600	Lillie Predmore
Blair	Dana College	1500	N. T. Lund	
Chadron	Chadron Academy	1000	Grace F. Hooper	
College View	Union College	2420	M. E. Kern	
Crete	Deane College	10268	W. E. Jillson	
Franklin	Franklin Academy	4750	C. R. Merrifield	
Grand Island	Grand Island College	1887	6276	H. C. Welker
Hastings	Hastings College	1895	1560	Anna V. Jennings
Kearney	Neb. State Normal School	1905	6960	Dr. W. K. Jewett
Lincoln	University of Nebraska	1869	2500	Mabel A. Ellis
Neligh	Gates Academy	1882	1900	
Omaha	Brownell Hall	1866		
Omaha	Creighton University	1880	17000	G. J. Ganaghan
Omaha	Nebraska School for the Deaf	1896	1600	
Orleans	Orleans Seminary	480	Carrie B. Boice	
Peru	Neb. State Normal School	1869	2000	Josephine Meissner
Santee	Santee Normal Training School	1896	1500	Edith Leonard
University Place	Nebraska Wesleyan University	1883	3000	May Ingles
Wahoo	Luther Academy	1883	3000	S. Bonander
Weeping Water	Weeping Water Academy	1894	1400	Eduana Leyenberger
York	York College	1890	1500	

STATE LIBRARIES NOT ALREADY MENTIONED.

TOWN	NAME OF LIBRARY	Year estab- lished	No. of Volumes
Burkett	Soldiers' & Sailors' Home	1889	1500
Lincoln	Nebraska State Library	1867	54672
Lincoln	State Historical Society	1878	25559
Lincoln	Nebraska Penitentiary	1903	2000

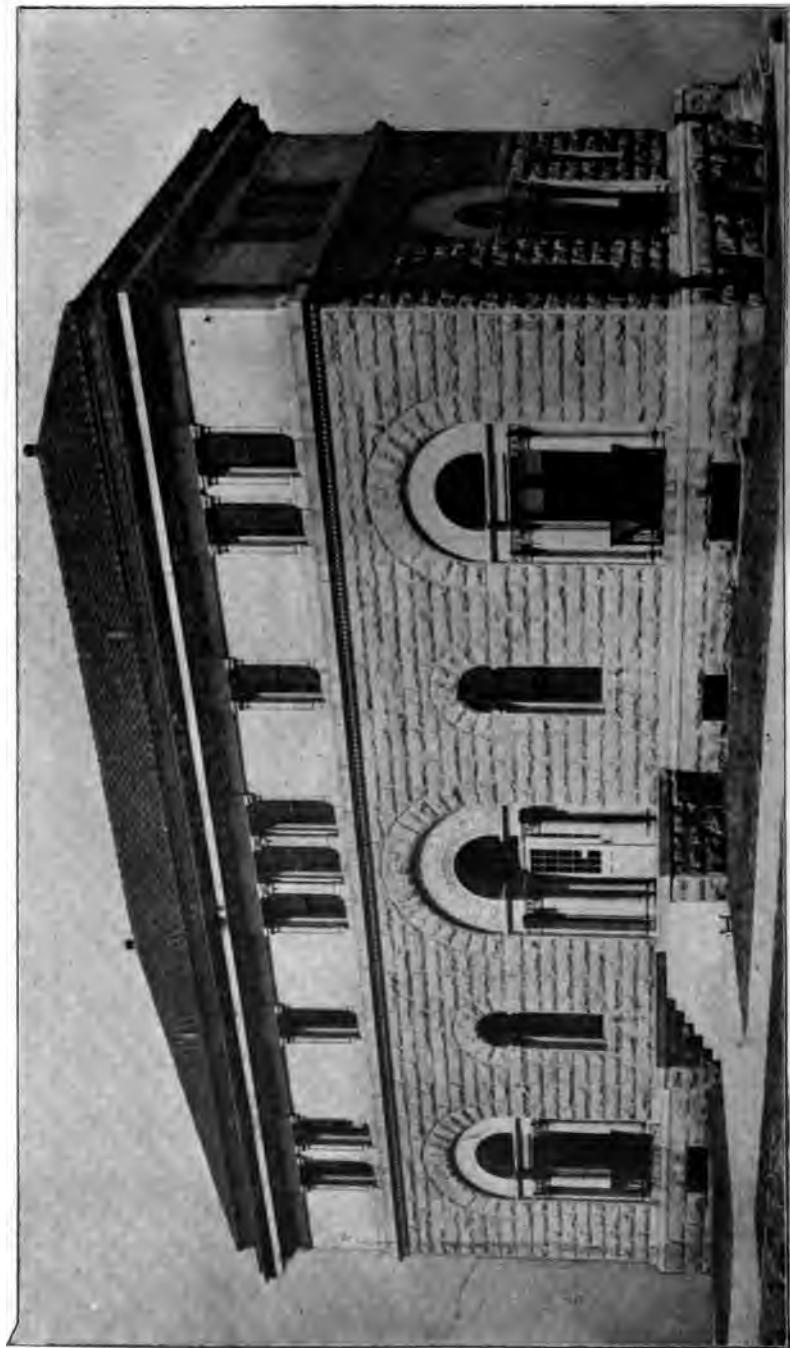
ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES.

TOWN	ASSOCIATION	Year estab- lished	No. of Volumes
Fairbury	Jefferson Co. Teacher's Association	1890	1200
North Platte	R. R. Y. M. C. A.	1881	3000
Omaha	Swedish Association		678
Omaha	Y. M. C. A.		1500





PUBLIC LIBRARY, KEARNEY, NEBRASKA



PUBLIC LIBRARY, SOUTH OMAHA, NEBRASKA

17
2
3

FOURTH BIENNIAL REPORT
OF THE
NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

F. L. HALLER, President,
Omaha Public Library.

E. BENJAMIN ANDREWS,
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska.

J. L. MCBRIEN,
State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

H. C. LINDSAY,
State Librarian.

Dr. WALTER K. JEWETT,
Librarian of the University of Nebraska.

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, SECRETARY
GUESS HUMPHREY, LIBRARIAN.

LINCOLN, NOVEMBER 30, 1908.



*Nebraska Public Library Commission
10/11/3*

Letter of Transmittal.

Omaha, November 30, 1908.

To His Excellency, George L. Sheldon, Governor of Nebraska:

Complying with the requirement of the law, I have the honor to present herewith the report of the Secretary of the Public Library Commission on the activities of the Commission and on the library conditions and progress in Nebraska for the two years ending Nov. 30, 1908.

Very respectfully yours,

F. L. HALLER,
President.

The Commission.

At the annual meeting of the Commission, held April 13, 1907, F. L. Haller, of Omaha, was re-elected president and Miss Templeton was reappointed secretary. Miss Humphrey's title was changed from that of assistant-secretary to that of librarian. The same officers were re-elected at the annual meeting of 1908.

The secretary has represented the Commission at the meetings of the American Library Association at Asheville N. C., in 1907, and at Lake Minnetonka in 1908, and at the meeting of the League of Library Commissions held in Chicago in January, 1908. The president also attended the Lake Minnetonka meeting of the A. L. A.

Public Libraries.

A number of new libraries have been established during the biennium. At Aurora, Chadron, Genoa, Madison, North Bend and Randolph libraries have been started by library associations and are maintained free to the public. Subscription libraries have been started at Hardy, Decatur, and Nelson. At Plainview a free public library was established and a levy made for its support. The business men of Bloomfield maintain a free public reading room equipped with all the best papers and magazines. The libraries at Sutton, Louisville, Norfolk, Pawnee City, Shelton and Superior, established by library associations, have all been made free public libraries, supported by a town tax.

The growth of the public library movement is encouraging. There are now only five towns in Nebraska with a population of over 2000 which are without public libraries. These are Auburn, Alliance, North Platte, Schuyler, and Wahoo. North Platte is not without library facilities however, having an excellent Y. M. C. A. library. There are twenty-five towns with a population of under 1000 which have public libraries.

The administration of the libraries is improving all the time. The idea seems to be gaining ground that the library is not a charitable institution to provide a living for some incompetent person, who is not able to do any thing else, but that it is an educational institution to be administered by the person best qualified to do the work. The standard of qualifications is constantly being raised. Ten years ago there were, perhaps three librarians in the state who had had technical training. We now have fifteen librarians who are graduates of library schools, and thirteen who have taken summer school courses, while fifteen have taken the correspondence course given by the Commission.

Many libraries have availed themselves of the services of the Commission in organizing according to the best methods. The new libraries at Aurora, Geneva, and Sutton were organized by the Commission before they were open to the public. At Ashland, Columbus, Fairbury, Holdrege, Humboldt, and Waco River assistance has been given in classi-

sying and cataloging the books. Visits were made by the secretary to forty-two of the libraries of the state for the purpose of finding out the library conditions and of giving help to the librarians. A great many letters have been written as to the best methods of organizing and carrying on the affairs of the library. Advice has also been given in the matter of library architecture suggestive plans have been furnished and architects' plans criticized.

Buildings.

This has been a period of unusual activity in the building of libraries. During the biennium there have been completed handsome buildings in Albion, DeWitt, Havelock, Heldrege, McCook, Pawnee City, and Tecumseh, and buildings are under construction in Fairbury, Lincoln, Norfolk, and Superior. These are all the gift of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and represent a total cost of \$83,000.00. In addition, he has given \$20,000.00 to Hastings College for a library and science hall. Adding the gifts of the past two years to the gifts of former years, we find ourselves indebted to Mr. Carnegie for buildings valued at \$309,800.00.

Correspondence Course for Librarians.

It occurred to us that the easiest and cheapest way of improving the administration in the small library might be in the form of a correspondence course. Although our library friends told us that library methods could not be taught except by personal instruction, we were willing to try it, and arranged twenty lessons covering the essential points of library economy, adapted to the needs of the small library. With each lesson assignments are made, the work to be sent in to our office for revision. There is, of course, no fee, and the cost of supplies, which is small, is the only expense to the librarian. The plan works admirably; the librarians are doing the work very intelligently, and library administration is being much improved under our direction, but with slight expenditure of time and energy on our part.

Periodical Exchange.

The Commission maintains a periodical exchange for the public libraries of the state. Libraries and individuals send in magazines which they do not want. These are sorted and are sent free to libraries to fill gaps in their files. During the biennium we have sent out 174 complete volumes and 1291 single numbers.

Traveling Libraries.

During the biennium we have added seven libraries of forty volumes each to our collection of traveling libraries, making 115 libraries altogether. These have been sent out 432 times to 196 different places. The map appended will show how widely these are distributed over the state.

Two years ago the Bohemians of the state asked that books in their own tongue might be added to the traveling library system. The limited funds of the Commission made it impossible to grant their request and the Bohemians took up the matter for themselves. They raised enough money by subscription to purchase about 700 volumes which they presented to the state. Part of these were reserved for a reference collection and have been well used by the students in the Bohemian department of the State University. Of the rest, twenty-one traveling libraries were made up, consisting of thirty volumes each and the demand for these has already exhausted the supply. The great popularity of these libraries makes us wish that our German and Swedish citizens might be served in the same way.

Special Loans.

The secretary is convinced more and more, as she studies the conditions which obtain in Nebraska, that one of the best fields for the Commission is in reference work. Outside of Omaha and Lincoln, there are almost no book collections for the special student and it will be a great many years before his needs can be met by local libraries. Therefore, in an agricultural state like Nebraska, towns are small and scattered and most people do not have even a small local library to draw upon. Where is the student to turn for material on a subject on which he wishes information? It seems that the natural place is a library owned by the state for the use of all its citizens, and we have assumed this work. Requests come in to us with increasing frequency from teachers, club women, high school debaters and students in all lines. We could, with little effort, develop this work tremendously and keep an expert reference librarian constantly busy with it alone. As it is, we have sent out 2789 volumes to 388 places in the past two years; more than double our record for the last biennium. Our own collection of books is quite inadequate for this work, but the other libraries of Lincoln generously lend us their books to be used in this way. No work is better worth the doing than this for here we are meeting the definite needs of the people, and it is a field capable of indefinite extension.

School Libraries.

It has always been the policy of the Commission to work through the schools since there is no other channel through which we can reach so nearly all the people of the state. Many of our traveling libraries are in rural schools; advice is often given by the commission concerning the selection and care of books in school libraries; and talks have been given to the teachers at county institutes, junior normals, and teachers' associations. During the last summer definite instruction was given in book selection and the care of books in six different county institutes under the general direction of the Commission.

When the last legislature passed a school library law providing that the district should spend a certain amount annually for books other than text books, but making no provision for their selection, it seemed wise that the Commission should print at its expense a suggestive list of books for the school library in order to guide the purchase as much as possible in right directions. An edition of 10,000 was printed at a cost of over \$300.00 and copies have been freely distributed to the teachers of the state. There is evidence that considerable buying has been done from the list, but unfortunately there is also evidence of a great deal of unwise and extravagant buying. Definite provision should be made by law for the selection of books for the school library and arrangements made for the compilation and printing of a list to be used for that purpose.

Nebraska Library Association.

During the biennium there have been three meetings of the State Library Association owing to a change in the time of meeting from December to October. In December, 1906, a meeting was held in Lincoln; in October, 1907, a joint meeting with the Iowa Library Association was held at Omaha, South Omaha, and Council Bluffs; in October, 1908, the meeting was held at Hastings. In no other way is the growth of the library movement more evident than in the attendance at the annual meetings of the State Association. At Hastings twenty-five libraries were represented, the librarians traveling from all parts of the state to attend. The interest in these meetings is keen; new and better methods of work are eagerly sought, and the enthusiasm displayed is boundless. When one considers that the librarians of the state get almost nothing in the way of salaries; that they come to the meetings at an expense often equal to a month's salary, in order that they may still better administer the affairs of the libraries to which they are practically giving their services, one comes to realize something of the meaning of the oft-quoted term "library spirit" which seems synonymous with disinterested and devoted service.

Lincoln Library Club.

In the fall of 1907 a club was organized to bring together all the persons engaged in library work in and about the city of Lincoln, for a closer acquaintance and a wider knowledge of each others' fields. The club now has a membership of about thirty, representing eight libraries of widely different character. Meetings are held once a month and topics of professional interest are discussed.

Library Legislation Needed in Nebraska.

Higher Maximum Tax for Public Libraries.

We are just coming to realize the place which the public library should have in our educational system and to see that it should have

the same sort of support which the public school does. The two mill levy which is now the maximum library levy is not enough in our smaller towns to support a library which will fulfill all the requirements of the modern library. Other states have found this same thing true, and our neighboring states, with conditions similar to ours, have found it necessary to raise the levy for small towns. Iowa in 1906, passed a law allowing cities or towns with a population of 6000 or less to levy a tax of 3 mills on the dollar for the support of the public library. Kansas also found it necessary to raise the limit and in 1905 passed a law allowing a 3 mill levy in cities of the third and second class.

Selection of Books for School Libraries.

Mention has already been made of the unsatisfactory state of the school library law. This provides that every district shall set aside annually for the purchase of books other than text books, a sum made up at the rate of ten cents for every child of school age in the district. The law is all right as far as it goes, but it should go farther and specify how these books are to be selected. All other states having school library laws make some such provision. As it is now the selection is left to the directors, who know nothing of children's books and still less of the business side of book buying. They are at the mercy of the book-agent—and this sort of book buying is the most unsatisfactory and expensive method known—or they order by title from the catalog of a mail order house, getting cheap binding, poor paper and mutilated texts. There has been found but one satisfactory method and that is a provision by law compelling the districts to buy from an authorized list, carefully compiled by someone who knows, not only childrens' books but something of the subject of book buying, and who is in a position to get advantageous prices for the schools. In some states this list is printed annually by the state superintendent of public instruction, and in some is compiled by the state library commission. The benefits of such a law are, of course, obvious: it gives the school the benefit of expert knowledge of books, and insures them of getting the best returns for the money expended.

Country Extension of Library Privileges.

What we need more than anything else in library legislation is some law which will permit the extension of library privileges to persons living beyond town limits; a law which will allow contracts to be made between town, township or county officers and library boards, whereby, for a consideration agreed upon, the residents of the town, township, or county are given full privileges of the library. Several of our western states have passed such laws recently. The Minnesota law is particularly good, reading as follows: "And the board of directors in the chapter provided for, shall have the power to admit to

the benefit of such library persons not residing within the corporate limits of the city or village under such regulations and conditions as it may prescribe. Said board may also contract with the board of county commissioners of the county in which the library is situated or of adjacent counties, with the village trustees or governing body of any neighboring town, city, or village, to loan books of said library either singly or in traveling libraries to the residents of said county, town, or village upon such terms as shall be agreed upon in such contract. All such boards or officers are hereby empowered to make contracts for such purposes and to pay the consideration agreed upon out of the county, town or village treasury." The Wisconsin law goes a step further and allows the library board to make contracts with district school boards.

To sum up then, we should have:

1. A law allowing small towns to levy annually 3 mills on the dollar for the support of the public library.
2. Provision made in the school library law for the selection of books from an authorized list.
3. A law allowing a library to extend its privileges to persons residing outside the corporate limits for a proper consideration.



Fifth
Biennial Report
Nebraska
Public
Library
Commission





Fifth Biennial Report

of the

Nebraska Public Library

Commission

Lincoln, Nebraska,

November 30, 1910

1910
THE WOODRUFF BANK NOTE CO.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

F. L. HALLER, President,

Omaha, Nebraska

S. AVERY,

Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

E. C. BISHOP,

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY,

State Librarian

DR. W. K. JEWETT,

Librarian of the University of Nebraska

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secretary

GUESS HUMPHREY, Librarian

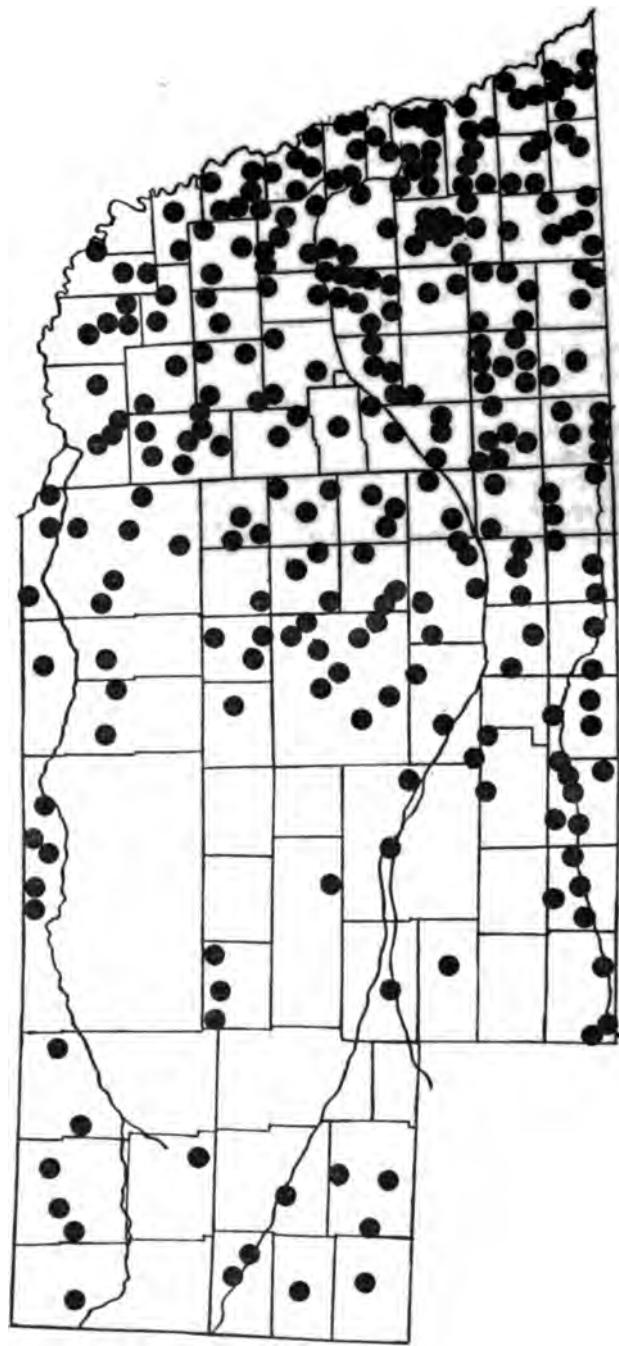
*...to Public Library Commission
10/11/3 ✓*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, A. C. Shallenberger, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1910. This report of our Secretary, which shows the activities of the Commission and the library conditions of Nebraska is commended to your attention.

Very respectfully yours,
F. L. HALLER, President.



PLACES TO WHICH BOOKS WERE SENT 1908-1910

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

During the biennium there have been two changes in the personnel of the Commission. Dr. S. Avery succeeded E. Benjamin Andrews as Chancellor of the University of Nebraska and E. C. Bishop succeeded J. L. McBrien as Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. Avery and Mr. Bishop thus becoming ex officio members of the Public Library Commission.

The Commission

During the biennium semi-annual meetings of the Commission have been held in April and November of each year, and the usual business transacted. At each annual meeting F. L. Haller has been re-elected president. The Commission was represented at the annual meeting of the American Library Association at Bretton Woods, N. H. in 1909, by the Secretary and Librarian and at the meeting at Mackinac in 1910 by the Secretary, Dr. Jewett and H. C. Lindsay. The Secretary also attended the mid-winter meetings of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago in 1908 and 1909.

During the past biennium the towns of Alliance, Alma, Ponca and Schuyler have passed library ordinances, made levies and established public libraries. At Pierce, Friend, Laurel, Clay Center and Gibbon, library associations have been formed which have started libraries free to the public and maintained by the efforts of the association. In Broken Bow an old library club turned over its books and a building to a new library association which is maintaining a free public library open every day of the week. In Aurora, Chadron, Madison, Minden, Norfolk, North Bend and Wayne, libraries which were organized by library associations have been turned over to the towns for support.

Public Libraries

Of the sixty-seven libraries reported a year ago four seem inactive at present. With thirteen new libraries organized during the biennium we now have seventy-six active libraries. Fifty-six of these are supported by tax; seventeen are maintained by library associations free to the public; and the remaining three are what we call subscription libraries; that is, the borrowers pay for the use of the books.

In our last biennial report we stated that there were five towns having a population of over 2000 which were without libraries. The organization of libraries in Alliance and Schuyler has reduced this number to three and there now remain only Auburn, North Platte and Wahoo in this class. North Platte, however has an excellent Y. M. C. A. library which furnishes the town with reading.

Comparing the number of libraries at the present time with the number previously reported, the figures show that we now



have seventy-six as compared with sixty-seven two years ago, and with twenty-six nine years ago.

During the biennium library buildings have been completed in Fairbury, Lincoln, Norfolk, Superior, and Neligh; and buildings are under way in Aurora, Chadron, David City, Alliance, Alma and Sutton. All of these, with the exception of the library at David City, have been given by Mr. Carnegie. Twenty-nine libraries are now in buildings of their own.

With almost no exception Nebraska libraries have good systems of administration. This is largely due to their newness no doubt, since two thirds of them have been organized since the establishment of the Public Library Commission and have availed themselves of the assistance and advice which the Commission stands ready to give.

The standards of librarianship are unusually high. We have sixteen librarians who have had regular library school training; fifteen who have taken summer courses and many who have taken the correspondence course offered by the Library Commission. Evidence of their interest in professional advancement is shown in the attendance at the meetings of the State Library Association. At the meeting held in Lincoln in October of this year there were about seventy-five persons present, representing forty libraries.

The Commission has given assistance in organizing to the libraries at Norfolk, Chadron, Alliance, Osceola, Humboldt, Pierce, Ponca, Schuyler, Friend, Laurel, Broken Bow, Clay Center and Gibbon. The secretary visited fifty-one libraries during the biennium and in addition to making personal visits has carried on a large correspondence, giving advice in regard to organizing and administering libraries.

During the biennium we have made some changes in our traveling libraries. Originally we made up the fixed groups on the basis of ten books of fiction, ten books of non-fiction and twenty books for children. The proportion of non-fiction seemed large and we decided several years ago to put in eight books of non-fiction to twelve of fiction; at the same time endeavoring to put in only readable non-fiction. Still libraries came back with some books practically unread and a year ago we made a further change. We took out all non-fiction except such books as Riis's "Making of an American" and Booker Washington's "Up from Slavery" which almost rank with fiction in popularity, leaving a fixed group of thirty-five volumes. To each library that we send out we add from five to fifteen volumes, suiting as far as possible the needs and tastes of the community.

The books of non-fiction taken out form a reserve collection from which we draw to send books to study clubs, to individual students, or to fill out a traveling library in a community which expresses a desire for reading along special lines. In

Traveling Libraries

this way we are making good use of books which in traveling libraries found almost no readers.

During the biennium we have sent out 17,932 volumes in response to 442 requests for general traveling libraries, compared with 17,280 volumes and 432 requests of the last biennium. In our special loan work we have sent out 4,921 volumes in response to 636 requests as compared with 2,789 volumes and 388 requests of two years ago. The total number of volumes sent out was 22,853 and the total number of requests 1,078. That the use of the books has been widely distributed over the state will be seen from the map appended. During the biennium we have sent books to eighty-three counties.

The collection of Bohemian books which was barely ready for circulation at the time of our last report has proved popular and twenty-six towns have availed themselves of this opportunity of getting books in the Bohemian language. The twenty-five Bohemian libraries have been out ninety-four times since the spring of 1908.

Since the establishment of the Library Commission, largely through the efforts of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, there has always existed a close relationship between the clubs and the Commission. Two years ago when the financial needs of the Commission were pressing, the clubs of the state undertook to interest the legislature in the work of the Commission and the result was an increase of \$2,000 in the biennial appropriation.

This has enabled us to buy a great many books needed for study and to assist the clubs more than ever before. In addition to the books loaned to individuals to aid them in the preparation of special topics we have made up study group libraries to send out to clubs for the whole winter, covering as fully as possible the year's work. This fall we sent out thirty-one such study groups.

We have also made suggestions to program committees and have assisted in outlining courses of study for women's clubs. The clubs are working away from the "miscellaneous" program and we are assisting them, as far as we are able, to take up definite lines of work.

Last winter the Art Department of the State Federation had some money in its possession and decided to purchase photographs of famous paintings to be used by the art clubs in the state. They sought the cooperation of the Library Commission and the Commission made up three study libraries on French, Dutch, and English painting and the Art Department supplied three portfolios of photographs of the most notable paintings of the various schools, to accompany the

Women's Clubs and The Commission

Books for University Extension Courses

The Schools and the Commission

Library Extension

libraries. These portfolios are to be permanently deposited with the Commission.

The Library Commission has cooperated with the university extension department of the State University and has supplied students taking the course on Abraham Lincoln with the necessary books for study. For this purpose the Commission bought sixteen sets of the complete works of Abraham Lincoln and seven copies of the "Life of Lincoln," by Tarbell, and thirteen copies of the life by Morse. The constant use of these books has justified their purchase and the Commission may well consider developing this line of work further.

One of the activities of the Commission which is not shown in statistics, is assisting in the selection of books for school libraries. The secretary serves as an advisory member of the Reading Circle Committee which makes up each year suggestive lists of books for school libraries. She also gives a great deal of advice to individual teachers. A count was made of the letters from teachers and school directors for help in book selection which came between September and April of last year and it was found that the Commission had answered 125 such requests.

I called attention in my last report to the need of amending our library law to provide for some means by which library privileges may be extended to country people. A library extension bill was drawn up and introduced in the last session of the legislature but failed to pass; not, I believe, from opposition, but rather from indifference.

According to our present law, only incorporated towns and cities may establish libraries and tax themselves for their maintenance. There certainly should be some provision by which people living outside the corporation limits might, if they so desired, enter into a contract with a town library for the enjoyment of its privileges, or by which they might, if they chose, establish a library of their own.

From the rapidly increasing number of libraries we may complacently consider that we have adequate library facilities, but when we come to study figures, we find that we have not reached an ideal condition by any means. While the inhabitants of our large towns are fairly well provided for, in the small towns the book collections are usually pitifully meagre, and there still remains our large rural population practically untouched by the library movement. We have in Nebraska, by the census of 1900, 1,068,539 persons. The towns having libraries have a total population of 308,736. It will be seen that only 28% of our people have access to libraries. The total number of volumes in the public libraries of the state is 203,946. So it will be seen that even the fortunate 28% have less than a book a piece. To be sure, each library has a few

out of town patrons, but the number is so small as to be almost negligible. Let us estimate it at 2% of the total population, and consider that 30% of our people have some sort of library privileges. There still remains 70% unprovided for. The State Traveling Library is doing its best with the limited resources at its command but it can reach comparatively few. What we need is a strong system of local libraries, supported by town and country people alike, so that it cannot be said, in this democracy which should mean "an equal opportunity for all" that less than one third of our people have the free use of books.

We have made a great to-do over the library movement; we have felt it our duty to see that every one has proper reading; the dwellers in cities and towns through public libraries, the rural population through traveling libraries, but with all this we have ignored a large number of our citizens, a class of citizens who need most the beneficent influence of books, a class who are in no position to know their needs or to clamor for their rights,—the wards of the state, the inmates of our state institutions. We have upwards of 4000 of these unfortunates in Nebraska and so far practically nothing has been done to supply them with reading which is well chosen and adapted to their peculiar needs. I think that it is time that we turned our attention in this direction.

All of our institutions are pitifully in need of the right kind of books. Such libraries as there are, are largely the result of indiscriminate generosity. Very little money has been spent and that not always with wisdom. The meagre collections of books which they have are ill-cared for and are not used to the best advantage. I am not criticizing the present administration; the condition is the result of a wrong system of control of state institutions. One can hardly expect a man who is in charge of a state institution possibly for only two years, who has had no previous training for work which demands the most highly specialized education, and who has no money for the work in hand, to build up and wisely use a good collection of books.

Considering the existing system of control in Nebraska, it has seemed to the persons most interested in this subject, that the most satisfactory method of doing efficient library work in the various institutions, would be to centralize the work in the State Library Commission. This Commission is out of politics, it is fairly permanent, and it already has the "machinery" for book ordering, cataloging, and library organizing. A thoroughly qualified librarian should be added to the staff of the Commission to take charge of the work; a person who would combine a knowledge of books with a sympathy and insight into the needs of the various unfortunates,

Libraries in State Institutions

who would divide her time among the different institutions, going over the old libraries, weeding out the undesirable books, organizing the collections into working libraries, getting in touch with the attendants and inspiring them to make the utmost use of these tools at their command. There should be an appropriation for the purchase of new books, to be divided among the various institutions according to their needs. It has been estimated that a biennial appropriation of \$7500.00 would make a very creditable beginning for this work; \$2500.00 to be used for salaries and supplies and \$5000.00 to be used for books.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, NOVEMBER 30, 1910
Volumes in library, December 1, 1908..... 7,084
Additions, Nov. 30, 1908-Nov. 30, 1910
 By gift..... 358
 By purchase..... 1,566
 Total..... 1,924

9,008
Withdrawn, Nov. 30, 1908-Nov. 30, 1910.... 197

Volumes in the library, Nov. 30, 1910..... 8,811
Number of volumes sent out, 1908-1910..... 22,853
Number of requests in answer to which books were sent.. 1,078

EXPENDITURES, NOV. 30, 1908-NOV. 30, 1910
Books..... \$1,518.64
Travel..... 597.71
Binding..... 400.35
Printing..... 82.50
Office expenses..... 1,102.79
Secretary..... 2,400.00
Librarian..... 1,633.34
Total..... \$7,735.33

Appropriation for 1909-1911..... \$8,000.00
Expended from 1909-1911 appropriation..... 6,900.36
 Balance, Nov. 30, 1910..... \$1,099.64

PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COLLEGE AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

TOWN	SCHOOL	No. of Vols.	LIBRARIAN
Bellevue*	Bellevue College.....	5,542	
Bethany*.....	Cotner University.....	2,600	Helen Byram
Blair*.....	Dana College.....	1,500	
College View*.....	Union College.....	2,420	
Crete*.....	Doane College.....	11,000	W. E. Jillson
Franklin*.....	Franklin Academy.....	4,990	
Grand Island*.....	Baptist College.....	7,000	Harriet Craig
Hastings*.....	Hastings College.....	6,300	Emma Cadwallader
Kearney.....	State Normal School.....	5,295	Anna V. Jennings
Lincoln.....	University of Nebraska.....	87,007	Dr. W. K. Jewett
Neligh*.....	Gates Academy.....	2,500	
Omaha*.....	Brownell Hall.....	1,900	
Omaha*.....	Creighton University.....	28,250	
Peru.....	State Normal School.....	17,000	Elva E. Rulon
University Place.....	Wesleyan University.....	7,486	May Ingles
Wahoo.....	Luther Academy.....	5,280	Aleda C. Johnson
Weeping Water*.....	Weeping Water Academy.....	1,400	
York.....	York College.....	2,400	Blanche Bagg

*Reports not received in 1910. Number of volumes reported in 1908.

STATE LIBRARIES NOT ALREADY MENTIONED

TOWN	INSTITUTION	No. of Vols.
Lincoln.....	State Library.....	62,843
Lincoln.....	State Historical Society.....	32,100
Lincoln.....	Penitentiary.....	2,650

ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

North Platte.....	Y. M. C. A.....	3,000
Fairbury.....	Jefferson County Teachers' Library.....	1,600

Sixth
Biennial Report

Nebraska
Public
Library
Commission





Sixth Biennial Report

of the

**Nebraska Public Library
Commission**

Lincoln, Nebraska,

November 30, 1912

1912
THE WOODRUFF BANK NOTE CO.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

F. L. HALLER, President

Omaha, Nebraska

S. AVERY

Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

J. E. DELZELL

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY

State Librarian

DR. W. K. JEWETT

Librarian of the University of Nebraska

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secretary

GUESS HUMPHREY, Librarian

FLORENCE E. WAUGH, Librarian for State Institutions

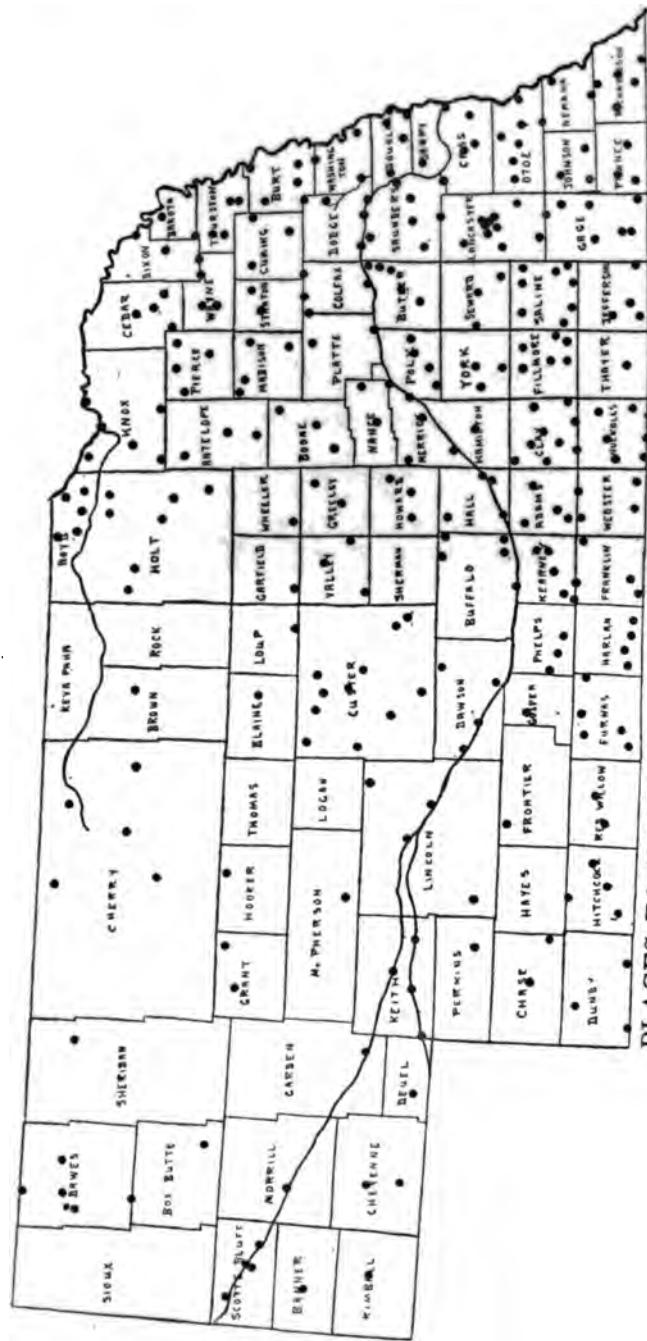
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Nebraska Public Library Commission
10/11/32*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, Chester H. Aldrich, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1912. I commend to your attention this report of our Secretary.

Very respectfully yours,
F. L. HALLER, President



PLACES TO WHICH BOOKS WERE SENT 1910-1912

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

The aim and purpose of the Public Library Commission is to foster the library interests of the state. To encourage the formation of libraries where none exist, to advise as to the best methods of establishing, organizing, and administering such libraries, to furnish, through traveling libraries, good reading to those communities which have no library facilities, to suggest legislation favorable to the best development of public libraries, to inform communities of the possibilities of library service, to inspire librarians and trustees with a desire to make the library a vital force for good, these are the duties of the Library Commission. That it is accomplishing its task in some measure is seen by comparing the library conditions of the state today with those of eleven years ago.

There were then thirty-four public libraries, about four librarians with special training, seven public library buildings, and the State Library Association consisted of a mere handful of people. We can now report ninety-one libraries, twenty librarians who are graduates of library schools and as many more who have had summer school courses, thirty-nine library buildings, and a Library Association which recently met in Lincoln with an attendance of over 100. We have a satisfactory library law which permits the establishment of city, county and township libraries, we have 10,000 volumes in a state circulating library, and we have made an excellent beginning in establishing libraries in our state institutions. That part of this work which has been accomplished during the past two years is set forth in the following report.

During the past biennium there has been but one change in the personnel of the Public Library Commission. In October, 1911, J. E. Delzell took the place of E. C. Bishop on the Commission. F. L. Haller, on the expiration of his term of office in May, 1911, was re-appointed by the Governor.

The regular semi-annual meetings have been held each year, and the usual business transacted. At the annual meeting in 1911 and again in 1912, F. L. Haller was re-elected president and Charlotte Templeton, secretary.

The Commission was represented at the meeting of the American Library Association at Pasadena in 1911, by the Librarian; at the meeting at Ottawa in 1912, by Dr. Jewett and the Secretary; at the mid-winter meetings of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago in 1910 and 1911, by the Secretary. The Secretary and the Institution Librarian attended the meeting of the National Prison Congress in Omaha in 1911, and the meeting of the Nebraska Conference of Charities and Corrections in Omaha in 1912. All of the staff attended the meetings of the Nebraska Library Association in Omaha in 1911 and in Lincoln in 1912.

The Secretary has given eighteen public talks at clubs, schools, and library dedications; the Institution Librarian has made talks at the State Federation of Woman's Clubs and at the State Library Association.

Public Libraries

The Commission has rendered assistance to the public libraries of the state by correspondence and by personal visits varying in length from a few hours to two weeks. Lists and samples of needed supplies, suggestive lists of books for first purchase and by-laws and regulations for the government of the library have been prepared for new libraries; building plans have been passed upon; and help in cataloguing and organizing has been given to eighteen libraries. The Commission has sent to all libraries the monthly Booklist, published by the American Library Association, and for the past year has sent also the Wisconsin Library Bulletin. Other book lists and printed helps on library administration have been sent wherever they were needed. The secretary has spent about six months out in the state and has travelled almost 10,000 miles in the interests of the public libraries.

Since our report of two years ago we have added to the list of Nebraska libraries the following: Ainsworth, Auburn, Burwell, Exeter, Fullerton, Lexington, Murray, North Platte, Ogallala, O'Neill, Orleans, Palmyra, Sidney, Spalding and Winside, fifteen in all, the largest number of new libraries ever reported in one biennium. Seven association libraries have become tax-supported libraries. The towns of Bloomfield, Broken Bow, Fairfield, Genoa, Laurel and Pierce, all having made levies for the support of libraries already established. Library buildings have been completed in Ainsworth, Alliance, Alma, Ashland, Aurora, Chadron, North Platte, Pierce, Schuyler and Sutton, and buildings are under construction in Geneva, Gibbon, Madison, Ponca, Seward, and North Bend.

The library at Ainsworth was erected at a cost of \$4,000 by a citizen, L. K. Alder, and presented to the town. The others were the gift of Andrew Carnegie in the following amounts: Alliance, \$10,000; Alma, \$10,000; Ashland, \$5,500 from Carnegie, \$1,450 from citizens; Aurora, \$10,000; Chadron, \$5,500; Geneva, \$8,000; Gibbon, \$6,000; Madison, \$6,000; North Bend, \$7,500; North Platte, \$12,000; Pierce, \$4,000 from Carnegie, \$1,200 from citizens; Ponca, \$4,500; Schuyler, \$9,000; Seward, \$8,000; Sutton, \$5,700; Wayne, \$9,000.

We have a total of ninety-one libraries in the state; sixty-eight supported by taxation, and twenty-three association and subscription libraries. There are now only three towns of over 2,000 population which have not taken steps to provide themselves with libraries. These are Benson, Wahoo and Wymore.

There is evidence of a growing appreciation of the public library in the increased appropriations made by city councils for library purposes. Almost as soon as the library law was amended by the last legislature, raising the limit of library taxation, several town councils made the full three mill levy.

At the last session of the legislature the library law was amended to make possible the establishment of township and county libraries. Already four townships have organized libraries. In Gibbon township a two mill levy was made, a library established by the Gibbon Library Association was taken over by the township, the village of Gibbon donated a site and

contracts have been let for a \$6,000 building, the gift of Mr. Carnegie. In Wood River and Shelton townships library levies have been made and the towns have turned over to the townships their public libraries. O'Neill had no library of any sort and having voted a two mill township levy will start from the beginning as a township library.

The advantages of the township over the village and town library are obvious. All of our libraries serve or should serve the country people living around the town and making it their business and social center. Receiving these library privileges they should pay for them at the same rate that the townspeople pay. Then when all are paying their share, the income of the library will be adequate to provide really efficient service for all.

Take for instance the case of Gibbon, a village of 700 people, where a two mill village levy would bring \$400 to the library treasury. Now the country people use and enjoy the Gibbon library as much as do the townspeople and are quite willing and able to pay their share toward its support. A two mill levy on the township, including the town, amounts to over \$1000, on which a very good little library can be maintained. The library is serving just the same territory that it served before, the only difference being that all are helping to support it on the same basis and that in return they are getting something really worth while. Certainly township support seems to be the solution of the problem of the small library, struggling with inadequate means and striving to serve a large country constituency.

Unfortunately township libraries are possible in only about one-third of the state, since two-thirds of our counties do not have township organization. However, another form of rural extension was made possible by amending the library law to provide for the establishment of county libraries. Taking advantage of this new provision of the law, Lancaster County voted at the general election this year to make a library levy on the county, outside Lincoln, Havelock and College View, which already maintain libraries. It remains for the county commissioners to fix the rate of levy and to determine the mode of operating the county library. Doubtless a contract will be made with the Lincoln City Library for the extension of its privileges to the county.

The establishment of these township and county libraries, the extension of the use of the library beyond town and city limits on terms of support adequate to secure efficient service, is perhaps the most notable step in library progress which has been made in the state in the past decade.

Traveling Libraries

The use of the traveling library department during the biennium has continued to increase. We sent out 30,225 volumes in response to 1,306 requests. This is an increase of over 32% over the number of volumes sent out in the last biennium. The increase might have been much larger however, had we had more books to send out. From November to May of last year there was seldom a time when the number of requests on file did not exceed the number of libraries in. The map facing the first page

of this report shows how widely distributed the use of the traveling library has been. There are only seven counties to which we have not sent books during the biennium.

We find our practice of combining the fixed group and open shelf system successful. We have a unit of fifteen adult fiction and twenty children's books to which we add books to suit the special community. Our patrons express far more satisfaction in the books and we find that we are holding our old stations better than formerly. Moreover the actual use of our non-fiction has increased.

While we are doing our utmost to supply books to the people of the state who have no other library facilities, we are so limited in resources that we barely approach the task. If we are to meet the demands made upon us we must have more books, and we trust that the legislature will grant us an additional \$2,000 for the purchase of books.

Libraries in the State Institutions

In my report of two years ago I set forth the need of well-chosen and properly supervised libraries in our state institutions. The matter was presented to the Legislature, and the Legislature, recognizing the need, set aside \$5,000 to be used by the Public Library Commission for the purpose of beginning this work. Miss Florence Waugh was engaged by the Commission as institution librarian and began work on May 15, 1911. Preliminary to forming any definite plans, Miss Waugh visited all of the state institutions, studying their various needs. After her return we made an apportionment of the funds and planned in detail the method of conducting the work. It was decided to follow the plan of a city branch system; ordering, accessioning, cataloguing and preparing the books for circulation to be done, for the most part, at the central office; the order cards with the addition of some items of information to be filed as a duplicate author list in the office; all supplies to be ordered in quantity and distributed to the libraries as needed. Under this plan the librarian would do the most of her work in the Commission office with a great economy of time, and at the same time keep more closely in touch with all of the libraries.

The plan of procedure being determined upon and the funds apportioned, work began in earnest. What we have accomplished in the different institutions is reported here in brief.

At the Orthopedic Hospital Dr. Orr became interested at once and had fitted up a library room with cork carpet, low tables and chairs and low book cases. We subscribed for a number of magazines for the use of both patients and staff and bought over 200 volumes. These are the very choicest children's books in the best editions. We bought no books for the staff but Miss Waugh has kept a collection of books from the Lincoln City Library on deposit for their reading, changing them once a month. The circulation here is good and the teacher reports that she makes a great deal of use of the books in her school work. A story hour is held in the library once a week and a boys' debating club for the older boys has been organized.

In the Boys' Industrial School we found several hundred standard classics, and the tattered remains of a collection of boys' books which had literally been read to pieces. We bought about 250 volumes, all in Chivers bindings, anticipating hard wear. A central reading room being deemed impracticable, and our funds being insufficient to duplicate magazines for the different cottages, no magazines were subscribed for. The books are kept in a room in the central building and are exchanged on Sunday mornings.

At the Girls' Industrial School a pleasant reading room was fitted up by the school; we subscribed for magazines and bought about 200 volumes of good, readable girls' books.

The Industrial Home for Women at Milford also fitted up a library room. We bought for them about 100 books and subscribed for several magazines.

The School for the Deaf already had a considerable library but it was unorganized. We classified and catalogued the books, introduced a new charging system and added about 125 volumes.

The Tuberculosis Hospital was established after our appropriation was made but we felt that we must do something for the patients there and bought 125 volumes of popular fiction and subscribed for a few magazines.

For the Insane Hospital at Lincoln we bought 340 books and subscribed for magazines. The books are kept in the reception room and the stenographer acts as librarian. For the Insane Hospital at Norfolk we bought 300 volumes and also subscribed for magazines. The books are kept in the office of the Head Nurse who acts as librarian. For the Hospital at Ingleside we bought 444 volumes but subscribed for no magazines since they already took a good many papers. They have fitted up a small library room at Ingleside and the telephone operator is librarian. For the insane we selected wholesome, cheerful, and interesting fiction and a few books of non-fiction, but we find very little non-fiction read. The prime requisite in a book for the insane is its power to hold the attention and since fiction does this to a much greater extent than non-fiction, fiction must form the bulk of the library. The function of a library in a hospital for the insane is obviously entirely different from its function in other institutions.

At the Soldiers' Home in Grand Island we found an excellent library already in the institution, but they welcomed the new fiction which we added. The magazines and newspapers are also very popular. They had no books at the Soldiers' Home at Milford and we purchased for them 220 volumes and subscribed for a number of magazines. For both the soldiers' homes we bought the Brady's Photographic History of the Civil War which has proved a source of much pleasure.

We have to report one failure. Owing to a lack of interest on the part of the superintendent at the Feeble Minded Institute, we have been able to do nothing there. Books have been purchased for the institution and are being held until conditions for work are more favorable.

The largest piece of work which we have done has been the reorganizing of the Penitentiary library. It was, what I fear is the typical prison library,

the result of indiscriminate generosity, and ranging in scope from a large collection of orthodox theology in excellent condition, to very poor fiction in very bad condition. The shelves were crowded, there was no adequate system of records and the men had no way of knowing what there was in the library, since the supply of an old printed catalog was exhausted. However, we found there as our chief asset an intelligent and interested librarian, who soon became a veritable exemplification of the "library spirit." Our first task was to discard unsuitable and worn out books. Then the librarian made a card list of all the books left. About 340 new books were purchased and the whole library was classified and catalogued and a printed list prepared. The printing of this list took \$100 from our book fund but we felt that it was essential. Many of the books were past rebinding, all were dirty and ragged, and successive librarians had devised new systems of shelving and had each added a label to the back of the book. The librarian soaked off all the old labels, washed and shellacked the covers, and put books back into loose covers with flexible glue. New shelving was provided and now the whole collection is in excellent order. The printed list and a number of short suggestive lists and the personal suggestions of the librarian have greatly stimulated an interest in the better sort of books and some of the non-fiction is having a remarkable circulation. The extent to which the men use the library is shown in the report for last month. The average population for the month was 380; 1,077 books were circulated and 32% of the circulation was non-fiction.

We look back on the first year and a half's work in our institution libraries with considerable satisfaction. By no means do we take all of the credit for its success upon ourselves. Nothing could have been accomplished without the cooperation of the heads of the institutions and they have been most cordial and interested. Nor could we have made any notable success of our undertaking without the efforts of the local librarians who have been generous of their time and services.

Doubtless the statements of those most interested in the welfare of the wards of the state as to the value of our work will have more weight than anything I could say and I quote from the letters of several of the superintendents.

Dr. Orr of the Orthopedic Hospital says: "As you know I have been very much interested in the educational side of the care of crippled children and I can say that the library in which you have taken so much interest has contributed very largely to the development as well as the pleasure of the patients in the Orthopedic Hospital. The library service not only contributes books necessary for their immediate use but serves the larger purpose of teaching our children how to use a public library. This cannot fail to be of the greatest good to them in after life. All the officers of the institution, especially the members of the teaching staff, earnestly hope that an appropriation may be made for the continuation of this very useful work."

Mr. C. B. Manuel of the Boys' Industrial School: "I wish to add my hearty approval and commendation for the splendid work of the Library Commission in connection with our state institutions. The library books which we received from the Library Commission have been a source

of inspiration to the boys of this school. They have been a potent factor in the strong up-lift and effort for higher ideals in our management. The books have been wisely selected to meet the various requirements of the boys. I am in hopes that the Legislature will make a liberal appropriation that this work so splendidly begun can be continued and enlarged, as I believe no money can be expended in a better cause than that of placing before the inmates of the state institutions good books."

Miss Lyda McMahon, Girls' Industrial School: "I most sincerely hope that the coming Legislature will appropriate sufficient funds for the promotion of the work in your department which has been of so much pleasure and of such benefit to the unfortunate people of our state. We certainly have appreciated what has been done for us by the Public Library Commission and I want to say a word of thanks for Miss Waugh for the deep interest she took in selecting wholesome reading for our girls. Every book has been useful and I do not know of any money that has been more judiciously expended to bring about a combined recreation and helpful improvement than our Library of which we are so proud."

F. W. Booth, Superintendent of the School for the Deaf: "Speaking for our own school and the benefits coming to it from the labors of yourself and your associates, I feel that I cannot say too much in commendation of the work of the Public Library Commission. The new books presented to us by the Commission were carefully selected with reference to subject matter and to attractiveness of illustration and print, and they have been eagerly read and greatly enjoyed by the pupils. As reading must for the deaf largely take the place of hearing, as a source of information and enjoyment, you will readily appreciate that your work is most helpful to our school in providing its library with well selected, up-to-date books."

Miss Lena Ward, Industrial Home for Women: "Your letter in regard to the library received, but I scarcely know how to reply to it as it would be impossible for me to tell you how much the girls have enjoyed the books and I am sure that they have greatly benefited by reading them. I have been really surprised at the number who never fail to get their books each week. Girls who had never seemed to care a thing about reading always come now for their books every time we give them out. They often speak of this themselves and say they never before seemed to care to read but they do now. I think that it is because the books have been so carefully selected and are so well suited to them. There is no question but what they have been of great benefit to the girls aside from the pleasure they have gotten from reading them."

Dr. B. F. Williams, Hospital for the Insane, Lincoln: "I want to say a word to you with reference to the value of the library in connection with the Nebraska Hospital for the Insane. At the time of the installation of the library we were not fully decided as to its value. As the months have passed the patients have become more and more interested in general reading. The periodicals and magazines are sought after diligently, and the books of fiction are in constant service."

Dr. A. Johnson, Norfolk State Hospital: "Many of our patients are reading the books out of our new library with a great deal of interest,

and the more we see of the books around the different wards the more we like them."

The G. A. R., Department of Nebraska, wished to express its appreciation of the libraries in the two soldiers' homes and at its annual encampment held in Beatrice in May, 1912, passed the following resolution: "Resolved: That we most heartily endorse the appropriation made by the last legislature for the establishment of libraries in state institutions, placing the same under the supervision and control of the Public Library Commission, and recommend that in future such libraries be accorded liberal support by the state."

But the last word must be said by the readers themselves. Some of the men at the Penitentiary have written us letters, striving to express what the library means to them. I quote from them in part:

"I believe books play a very important part to the shut-in, for without them a man has nothing to keep his mind off his troubles. And if one does nothing but sit his idle hours away, rapt up in thoughts of his troubles he will soon become a proper subject for a mad-house. I am almost sure that my mind would have gave away had I been deprived of reading matter, as I am a man that talks but a little."

Another says: "The library books borrowed by me have been the means of obtaining a fair knowledge of the history of several of the foremost countries. They have also given me a broader view of life and a higher standard of morals. . . . Having stopped school when very young, I have the library to praise for what education I have."

From another: "I am doing time in Lancaster and after my day's work is done then the hardest part of my confinement commences . . . If we had no books the time would be almost unbearable . . . I think reading good clean books is one of the best ways of getting to the best part of man. Get him to thinking good, clean thoughts and you have him on the way to reform for 'as a man thinketh so is he.' "

That the men themselves see in the book a moral agent is shown in the last letter. That idea is also expressed in this: "Sometime ago our librarian asked me to read a book on right living. I took the book and read it. It found it to be just what I needed and I have been reading books along that line ever since and have got a lot of good out of them."

I will close with this tribute, indirectly to the library, but directly to the prison librarian for the splendid service he is rendering. It is a letter written to him by one of the men.

"Allow me to commend your efficient service as librarian of this institution. I deeply appreciate the delicacy of your position and slightly understand what it is to please all of us. Doubtless you are unique in selecting appropriate books for people with such various temperaments . . . I heartily thank you for the books furnished me which have been inspiring and helpful in elevating my thoughts and better fitting me for my return to society."

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS, NOVEMBER 30, 1912

Volumes in library, November 30, 1910.....	8,811
Added, November 30, 1910-November 30, 1912.....	1,490
Total.....	10,301
Withdrawn, November 30, 1910-November 30, 1912.....	237
Volumes in library, November 30, 1912.....	10,064
Volumes sent out, November 30, 1910-November 30, 1912.....	30,225
Number of requests.....	1,306
EXPENDITURES, NOVEMBER 30, 1910-NOVEMBER 30, 1912	
Books.....	\$1,805.97
Travel.....	528.15
Binding.....	587.80
Printing.....	140.00
Supplies, equipment, office expenses.....	1,409.46
Secretary.....	2,900.00
Librarian.....	1,780.00
Extra assistance.....	518.90
Total.....	\$9,670.28

EXPENDITURES FOR STATE INSTITUTIONS, MAY 15, 1911-NOVEMBER 30, 1912

Books and magazines.....	\$2,682.98
Printing and binding.....	114.08
Equipment.....	114.30
Supplies.....	151.45
Travel.....	101.66
Salary.....	1,012.50
Total.....	\$4,176.97

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES OF NEBRASKA

PLACE	POPULATION	Mill Rate on Levy	EXPENDITURES			TOTAL INCOME	VOLUME	PATRONS	CIRCULATION	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Books	Other					
Ainsworth	1,045	1½	\$300.00	\$113.82	\$113.65	\$799.94	2,400	91	7,888	Mrs. F. W. Sisson
Albion	1,584	1½	314.50	92.85	334.01	1,421.03	1,698	801	9,907	Mrs. Jennie Gradon
Alliance	3,105	2	85.00	403.03	136.15	454.75	1,620	480	5,736	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
Alma	1,066	2	96.00	76.00	69.14	460.28	1,582	478	5,518	Mrs. LaVerne Miller
Ashland	1,379	2	360.00	551.53	1,383.99	1,829.84	1,277	1,277	20,195	Augusta Harnsberger
Aurora	2,630	2	1,245.00	422.62	1,276.44	2,944.06	12,933	3,058	39,243	Lillian Moore
Beatrice	9,356	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,139	1,080	.....	Frances Morton
Broken Bow	2,260	1	180.00	188.33	341.00	100.00	350	30	1,500	Essie Holcomb
Carroll	382	1	60.00	201.40	528.42	625.00	2,238	1,202	9,576	Mrs. J. H. Melick
Central City	2,428	1½	3	172.25	93.85	1,996.27	1,706	520	7,792	Margaret Anderson
Chadron	2,687	3	45.00	130.95	225.00	2,145.57	1,000	775	7,756	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
College View	1,508	1½	710.50	260.73	624.50	2,041.96	2,796	604	13,121	Mary Moore
Columbus	5,014	1½	2,405	96.50	302.01	459.21	4,435	.....	.....	Clara Howard
Crete	2,177	1	60.00	200.00	40.00	300.00	2,500	500	7,500	Christian Dick
David City	675	2	809.00	483.57	532.30	1,049.45	3,865	1,586	23,449	Lillian Simkins
DeWitt	5,294	3	10.00	67.15	73.85	2,082.28	5,692	100	2,000	Mari Carmichael
Fairbury	1,054	1	974.41	435.66	1,213.98	2,963.01	7,015	985	29,012	Vera Prout
Fairfield	3,255	1½	1,077.19	348.76	503.14	407.76	827	304	3,394	Mary Hutchings
Falls City	8,718	1½	360.00	150.00	296.00	915.64	775	133	26,273	Ella Green
Fremont	1,741	3	227.35	25.21	40.76	295.03	6,268	686	2,068	Nellie Williams
Genoa	1,376	2	1,056.00	503.14	780.05	2,275.28	2,209	3,328	31,418	Mrs. F. W. Wake
Gibson	718	2½	1,127.00	505.77	654.48	2,276.73	5,698	686	2,068	Mattie Pierce
Grand Island	10,326	7	2,680	386.70	129.67	516.37	972.42	1,987	7,446	Daisy Houck
Hastings	9,338	1	675.00	263.00	275.00	1,400.00	2,902	863	12,976	Minnie McKinney
Havelock	2,030	2	240.00	103.65	15.00	2,387.74	2,500	1,000	6,320	Mrs. H. E. Bush
Holdrege	1,176	1	900.00	672.92	.....	.....	8,700	3,080	42,100	Mrs. J. K. Liggett
Humboldt	6,202	2	120.00	38.90	34.33	4,257.13	32,565	300	2,817	Mrs. Pauline Frank
Kearney	614	1	52.00	33.00	62.45	12,440.68	644	11,191	190,421	R. L. Lathrop
Laurel	42,973	1	4,588.26	2,955.42	4,257.13	170.00	5,178	3,732	19,124	Lulu Horne
Lincoln	778	1	52.00	33.00	62.45	1,100.00	5,178	.....	.....	Edith Shryock
Louisville	3,765	2	495.59	120.76	467.89	.....	.....	.....	.....	Grace Willetts

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES OF NEBRASKA

PLACE	POPULATION	Mill Rate of Levy	EXPENDITURES			TOTAL INCOME	VOLUMES	PATRONS	CIRCULATION	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Books	Other					
Madison	1,708	2	345.55	258.48	106.66	748.07	1,378	823	5,212	Mrs. Ida Brannan
Minden	1,659	2	300.00	206.13	30.12	633.00	2,286	950	10,206	Mrs. Helen Shusser
Nebraska City	5,488	2	370.00	177.86	519.45	1,217.68	6,484	715	8,461	Mrs. Mollie S. Cornutt
Neigh	1,566	2	275.00	125.00	75.00	600.00	1,873	800	7,236	Mrs. Carrie Jones
Norfolk	6,125	0	404.32	275.89	685.30	1,090.00	1,808	900	11,424	Helen Lobdell
North Bend	1,105	2	260.00	146.42	61.00	848.33	2,010	400	6,200	Laura Rount
North Platte	4,793	1 1/2	17,331.61	4,873.15	8,824.94	31,029.70	91,881	15,656	258,401	Mrs. J. A. Jones
Omaha	124,096	1	96.00	130.00	37.55	259.00	800	212	Leah Shaw	
Osceola	1,105	1	444.00	55.82	270.96	832.15	1,734	800	10,056	Myrtle Parkinson
Pawnee City	1,610	2	...	...	...	...	800	200	...	Mrs. H. J. Arnholdt
Pender	804	...	180.00	75.62	...	325.00	1,005	600	9,000	Mrs. A. P. Clark
Plainview	941	...	350.00	127.62	160.98	625.09	4,729	2,135	13,510	Olive Jones
Plattsmouth	4,287	...	96.00	196.44	82.80	522.71	1,225	634	9,125	Esther Wood
Ponca	1,000	3	286.00	366.06	410.48	1,139.49	1,861	1,299	15,027	Marcia Webber
Schuyler	2,152	2	125.00	125.00	124.30	355.07	1,721	999	3,490	Verna Bowhus
Scribner	891	2	189.25	217.82	150.00	555.51	3,093	1,121	7,074	Belle Schick
Seward	2,106	1	206.00	186.91	239.00	592.00	2,183	623	3,514	Gladys Adams
Shelton	1,006	2*	2,027.50	1,044.36	1,991.69	5,063.55	8,578	2,877	41,048	Mrs. Grace Pinnell
South Omaha	26,259	2	132.00	28.73	29.68	208.94	878	210	5,884	Mrs. Rhoda Rice
Sterling	704	2	360.00	236.03	330.62	751.50	3,875	1,275	18,833	Mrs. Lucy Conn
Superior	2,106	2	280.00	145.00	265.00	765.00	1,753	600	9,186	Ida Rolland
Sutton	1,702	2	85.95	5.57	116.95	191.81	1,530	366	1,996	Ora Diener
Syracuse	842	1 1/2	50.00	49.36	98.77	196.60	1,050	273	Mary J. Cooper	
Talmage	461	2	246.20	177.37	141.53	661.17	2,441	688	7,296	Mrs. Mary Appelget
Tecumseh	1,748	1 1/2	65.00	142.28	28.05	163.63	1,265	490	3,906	Mrs. Sina Hypse
Wakefield	861	1	87.50	184.68	114.18	936.10	2,059	1,120	1,120	Mrs. Eva Davies
Wayne	2,140	2 1/2	107.00	131.34	17.02	283.47	850	280	3,318	Mrs. Emma Dysart
Winslow	450	2	39.50	100.00	10.00	300.00	1,508	136	5,375	Jessie Kay
Wood River	796	1 *	120.00	37.86	82.66	252.98	1,655	400	16,292	Estella Detrick
York	6,235	2	613.75	507.83	615.32	2,216.98	6,517	....	....	....

Note—Rates of levy reported are for current, not past year.

*Levy made on township.

LIBRARIES NOT SUPPORTED BY TAXATION

PLACE	POPULAT'N	VOLUMES	PATRONS	LIBRARIAN
Auburn.....	2,729	742	701	Mrs. Addie I. Johnson
Bridgeport.....	541	489	161	Mrs. H. N. McGriff
Clay Center.....	1,065	339	425	Mildred Epperson
Friend.....	1,261	546	76	Carrie Roehl
Fullerton.....	1,638	314	399	Mrs. Irving Fuller
Lexington*.....	2,059	1,000	1,120	.....
Nelson*.....	978	1,000	200	Mrs. H. Grace Thomas
Oak*.....	237	450	....	Mrs. George Follmer
Orleans*.....	942	700	....	Mrs. Lamson
Palmyra.....	343	271	200	.....
Randolph*.....	1,137	955	104	Mrs. Bertha Willey
Sidney.....	1,185	840	114	Mrs. Constance Corbett

*Fee charged for the use of the books.

Having been unable to get reports from the following libraries, they are not included in the tables above: Blair, Bloomfield, Edgar, Gering, Keystone, Ogallala, Pierce, Stanton, Valley, Waterloo. The following libraries have been established for such a short time that they were unable to make a report: Burwell, Exeter, Murray, O'Neill, Spalding.

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

	Average Population	Volumes Already in Library May 1, 1911	Volumes Purchased	EXPENDITURES		
				Magazines and Newspapers Subscribed for	Amount Spent for Books	Printing and Binding
Penitentiary	400	2,762	888	\$288.98	\$98.00	\$32.30
Soldiers' Home, Grand Island	450	1,018	144	112.21	9.82	11.75
State Hospital, Lincoln	610	...	340	236.21	...	7.25
State Hospital, Norfolk	425	...	300	215.08	...	8.50
State Hospital, Ingleside	1,160	500	444	340.22	...	7.25
Boys' Industrial School	190	350	252	817.27	6.76	8.50
Girls' Industrial School	90	886	194	86.76	236.28	9.76
Orthopedic	100	1,191	206	57.26	213.78	11.75
School for Deaf	200	...	123	...	98.56	9.76
Feeble Minded	410	...	146	...	116.04	8.00
Industrial Home for Women	60	...	96	82.15	91.36	6.75
Tuberculosis Hospital	18	...	124	10.30	49.98	1.50
Soldiers' Home, Milford	180	64	221	18.65	160.13	7.25



**Seventh
Biennial Report**

**Nebraska
P u b l i c
L i b r a r y
Commission**





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Seventh Biennial Report

of the

Nebraska Public Library
Commission

Lincoln - Nebraska

November 30, 1914

1914
THE WOODRUFF BANK NOTE CO.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



F. L. HALLER, President
Omaha, Nebraska

S. AVERY
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

J. E. DELZELL
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY
State Librarian

MALCOLM G. WYER
Librarian of the University of Nebraska

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secretary
JULIET M. VORE, Librarian
FLORENCE E. WAUGH, Librarian for State Institutions

Lincoln Public Library Commission
10/11/32

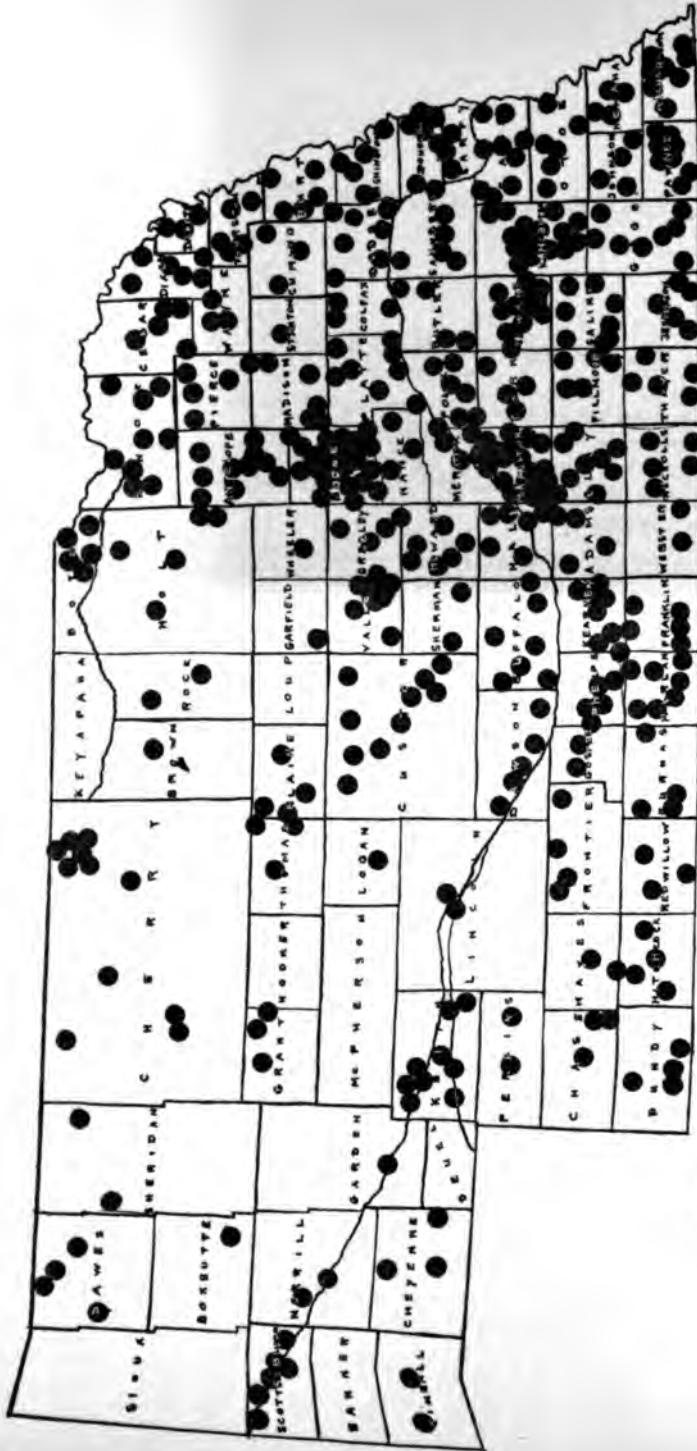
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, John H. Morehead, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1914.

Respectfully yours,

F. L. HALLER, President.



Map of Nebraska Showing Places to which Books were Sent During the Biennium

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Report for the biennium, December 1, 1912, to November 30, 1914

To foster the public library development of the state, to act as a public library for the state at large, and to supervise the libraries in the state institutions: these are the functions of the Public Library Commission. The following report covers the work of the Commission in these three lines of activity for the past two years.

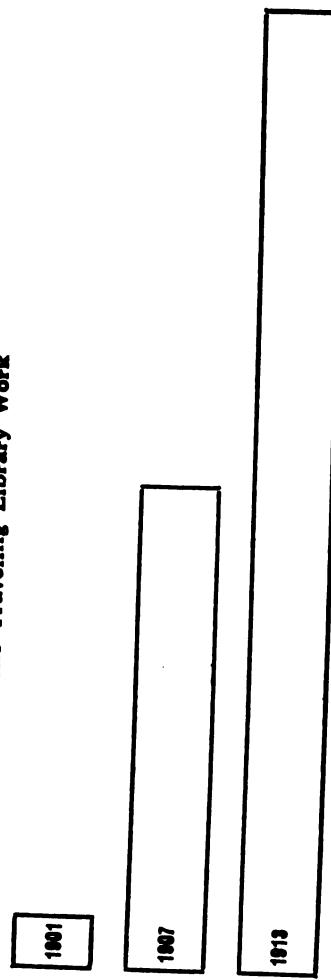
Since our last report the Library Commission has suffered the loss of Dr. W. K. Jewett who died on March 3, 1913. Dr. Jewett was one of the most interested members of the Commission and his genial presence and ready counsel have been greatly missed at the meetings. Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer, as librarian of the State University, has taken Dr. Jewett's place on the Commission and brings to it a wide experience and deep interest in library problems.

Miss Guess Humphrey, for eight years in charge of the traveling library department, resigned in October, 1914 in order to join her family in Mississippi. It was with much regret that the Commission accepted her resignation, for her efficiency has been a strong factor in building up the traveling library work. Miss Juliet Vore, formerly of the Lincoln City Library, was appointed to take Miss Humphrey's place and began work on October 15.

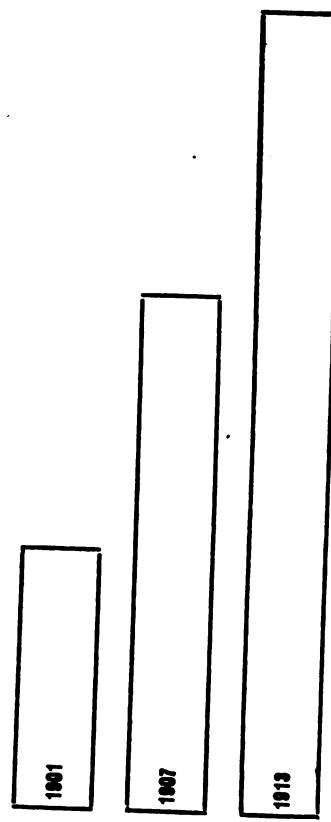
From the time of its establishment the Commission has been under the necessity of giving up its rooms during the legislative sessions. As its work grew, this became increasingly difficult until at last it seemed imperative that permanent quarters be secured. In the already crowded State House it was not easy to find rooms but the Board of Public Lands and Buildings agreed to fit up two basement rooms for the Commission and they were ready for occupancy in the summer of 1914. Although the space is insufficient and the approach to the rooms from inside the building is bad, still the quarters are fairly satisfactory and better than any which the Commission has had previously.

The Secretary has attended the meetings of the American Library Association in Kaaterskill, N. Y. in 1913, The League of Library Commissions in Chicago in 1914, the State Library Association in 1913 and 1914, the Conference of Charities and Corrections in 1913 and 1914 and the State Federation of Woman's Clubs in 1913 and 1914.

Growth of the Travelling Library Work



Growth in Number of Public Libraries in Nebraska



Public Libraries

A large part of the work of the Library Commission is promoting the establishment, growth, and improvement of public libraries in the state. Through correspondence and personal visits, advice is given on every possible question of library development from the phrasing of the library ordinance to the planning of the library building. From the time when a group of citizens begins agitating the public library question, the Library Commission stands ready to give them the benefit of wide experience, to save them from the blunders which others have made and to point the way to successful library administration. While the Commission acts merely in an advisory capacity and can only suggest what seem the best methods, it is gratifying to know that its suggestions are usually followed and that a library which has been helped over the first difficult place turns to the Commission thenceforth with its problems.

The rate of growth and the condition of the libraries of the state are satisfactory. During the last two years, libraries have been established in Cedar Rapids, Gothenburg, Hartington, Harvard, Hooper, Beaver Crossing, Creighton, Murray, Salem, Wayside, and Shubert, while Benson, Dundee, and Ralston have made levies in order to contract with Omaha for the use of its library. The libraries at Auburn, Crawford, Friend, Fullerton, Sidney, Spalding, and Stanton, previously established and maintained by clubs or library associations, have become tax supported libraries.

There are now only three towns of over 2,000 population which have not made provision for public libraries. These are University Place, Wymore and Wahoo. In all of these places, however, the question is receiving serious consideration. There are only 17 towns with a population of over 1,000 which have no libraries. Appreciation of the work of the library is shown in increased levies. The average levy is now 2 mills as compared with 1.7 mills of two years ago, while 18 towns have levied 3 mills which is the maximum.

The following towns have received gifts for library buildings from Mr. Carnegie in the specified amounts: Bloomfield, \$5,000; Broken Bow, \$10,000; Burwell, \$5,000; College View, \$7,500; Columbus, \$13,000; Crete, \$10,000; Fairfield, \$6,000; Fullerton, \$7,000; Hartington, \$10,000; O'Neill, \$10,000; Shelton, \$8,000; Sidney, \$6,000; Stanton, \$8,000; Gothenburg, \$8,000; Harvard, \$6,000; while J. W. Gilbert has given the town of Friend \$7,000 for a library building. There are now 55 library buildings completed or under construction.

As an instance of what a rural community can do in maintaining a library, I wish to cite the case of Murray. Murray is a village in Cass County which the census credits with 183 inhabitants. Two years or more ago the people of Murray organized a library association reaching far out into the country for members. The village not being incorporated and Cass County not having township organization it was impossible for them to vote a tax for the support of the library and some other means for its support had to be devised. It was decided to issue membership tickets at \$1.00 a year, a family membership entitling each member of the family to a library card, and to issue other cards at ten cents a month. They rented a small two room building and furnished it from their own homes. Wall book shelves, tables and chairs, rugs and

curtains make the front room a cheerful reading room while the back room is a complete kitchen with cook stove, dishes and cooking utensils. Entertainments had netted a small sum for the first purchase of books and with these and a few donations and a traveling library from the state they opened the library.

In solving the problem of maintaining the library another problem is being solved: the problem of the social life of the community. Musicales, kensingtons, and amateur plays, bring the people together for wholesome recreation at the same time that they net the library a goodly sum for the book fund. A monthly evening meeting of the association is held throughout the winter at which public questions are discussed, with substantial refreshments following the discussion. A story hour is held on Saturday so that the country children can attend. A lyceum course of five good entertainments is conducted every winter. A reading club of women is doing systematic study. The library is even doing extension work in the neighboring district schools, sending out small collections of books from its own shelves; and when a particularly successful entertainment has been given in the village it is sometimes repeated in the district school houses for the benefit of the country people.

In answer to the question as to whether it is all worth while one of the chief workers says, "When you see selfishness giving way to charity and that wall of prejudice melt under the rays of understanding; when you hear the conversation change from petty gossip to a discussion of the book they were reading or the thought they have made their own; when you are able to place in the hand of some lonely one a story that will cause him to forget his present condition; when the heroes or heroines of our best writers are becoming the ideals of your children and you are opening up a world to them that money cannot buy; when you feel a peace and contentment that you never experienced before, you know that you are really doing something worthy of consideration and you will say that it is all worth while."

From considering the library undertaking at Murray we are led to a consideration of what is now the chief problem in the library development of the state, rural library extension. Our towns, as we have shown, are fairly well provided with libraries, but towns, in an agricultural state, are after all merely centers of rural communities and any complacency which we may feel over the number of town libraries is dispelled at once when we consider that the libraries in these towns, in these rural centers, are not serving the farming communities around them; that there are hundreds of villages in the state too small to maintain libraries and that only 22% of the people of the state are taxing themselves for library purposes. The time has certainly come to do away with the city limits as a boundary for the district served by and supporting the public library and to substitute the limits of the township or the county. Not until we have a strong system of county libraries can the public library come to its full development and serve not 22% but 100% of our citizens.

A levy on a whole county, so slight as to cause no perceptible increase in each individual's taxes, would maintain a library in a state of efficiency impossible at present for our small libraries hampered by the insufficient revenue of a village or town tax. It would enable a county to have the services of a thoroughly trained librarian whose business it would be to see that the whole county, to its farthest corners, received the benefits of a well selected, well administered library. Instead of the rural school library, at present too often

a scant collection of books, selected by a teacher whose opportunity to know books is limited, and so ill-cared for that a year or two sees the books lost or in tatters, each school would be a deposit station of the county public library, where there would be kept a choice collection of books so that no child on the remotest farm would grow up without an acquaintance with the very best in literature. Reading rooms in towns now unable to support them, books made easy of access in groups placed at different points in the county, or by parcels post from the central library, or even possibly by a rural book delivery wagon such as is used in the Washington county, Maryland, library: a large central collection of books well chosen and well cared for; these are the possibilities in a county library and all at such a slight expense as to be barely felt by the average taxpayer.

The possible effect of a county library on libraries already established seems to be looked upon with misgivings by some libraries fearful of losing their own identity. However under the provisions of the law any town already maintaining a library may be exempt from the county levy and keep its separate library organization, while it may, in so doing, also contract with the county library for such participation in its benefits as may be desired. A clear understanding of these provisions of the law should do away with any opposition on the part of the libraries.

To make possible the easy establishment of county libraries it will be necessary to amend our present law which has a provision that the question of establishing a county library must be submitted to the voters at a general election. All library workers know that the number of town libraries would be decidedly less were it necessary to submit the question of establishing them to the voters of the town. With no experience in the benefits to be derived from a library and moved by the ever present fear of raising taxes, the voters would defeat many a public library project, whereas if a library were once established and operated successfully for a number of years, the same citizens would heartily support it. In amending the law it is proposed to give the county commissioners the same power to establish libraries that is now possessed by the city council.

With a satisfactory law and the rural communities awakening to the need of libraries, as is evident from the case of Murray and one or two townships, we should enter upon a period of rural library development worthy of a rich and progressive agricultural state.

Nebraska Library Association.

One of the strongest factors in raising the level of library work in the state is the State Library Association, with which the Library Commission co-operates closely. The Secretary of the Commission, from her acquaintance with the needs of the various libraries of the state, knowing their weaknesses as well as their strength, is able to assist the executive committee of the State Association to arrange programs which result in the greatest practical help to all.

Two successful meetings of the Association have been held in the past biennium, one at Omaha in 1913 and the other in Geneva in 1914. The meeting at Geneva was in itself an index to the library development of the state. Even a decade ago such a meeting would have been impossible. There was

not at that time a town of less than 2,000 population with a beautiful library building in which to entertain the State Association; it would have been impossible to get together sixty library workers; and that there should be public library almost 500 miles from Omaha to furnish us with a president was unthought of.

These annual meetings do more than furnish the librarians with short cuts and practical hints: they bring together librarians in every line of library work, the trained and the untrained, and they get from their association with each other a bigger idea of library work and a fine professional spirit. The standards of the untrained are raised to approximate those of the trained, the librarian of the village library, in meeting the city librarian, finds that after all they are striving to the same end; and the cataloguer and the filing clerk see the human reason for the whole machine.

Appreciating the benefits of the Library Association, the Commission decided to hold district meetings from time to time in different localities, to bring together the librarians who seldom find it possible to attend the state meetings. The first district meeting was held in Norfolk in April, 1914 with eight libraries represented by librarians and trustees. The meeting lasted two days and consisted of informal discussion of the problems most pressing in all public libraries, book selection, work with schools, the library budget, and library advertising. Members of the Library Commission, Miss Tobitt of Omaha and Miss Drake of Sioux City assisted in the discussions. The meeting was an unqualified success and it is planned to hold a number of such meetings this year.

Traveling Libraries

The most direct service of the Library Commission to the people of the state is through traveling libraries. Loans of books which vary in size from a single volume to a collection of one hundred or more are made to individuals or groups of people who are without adequate public library facilities. The work of the department grows steadily and apparently is limited only by the supply of books. The requests each year far exceed the supply and we must greatly enlarge our collection of books if we are to meet the demands made upon us and if we are to do, with any degree of completeness, the work for which the Commission was created.

During the biennium we have sent out 40,592 volumes in response to 1962 requests. This is an increase of 34% in volumes and 50% in requests over last biennium. We might easily have increased the number of volumes by 50% were it not for the scarcity of books which has made it necessary to send the fewest possible number of books in response to each request in order to make the books go around. A consultation of the map in the front of this report will show the geographical distribution of the loans and it will be noted that there are very few counties to which we have not sent books. The increasing number of books sent to the sparsely settled parts of the state is gratifying. Some go to places many miles from a railroad, often to a country school, where through the school and the religious services held in the school house on Sundays they reach the people of a large territory. Mere statistics mean little—so many books to so many places conveys little idea of the results of our

work. They are, in a measure, to be read in our letter files; in the letters for instance, from a homesteader's wife, or from a Sunday-school teacher in the sand hills, or from the members of a country woman's club, or from a rural school teacher teaching his first school; from these and many others come letters of appreciation which make the work of the traveling library seem a vital force for good in the state.

It is the policy of the Library Commission to co-operate in every possible way with all the educational agencies of the state; with the extension department of the State University and the State Agricultural School, with the woman's clubs, and debating societies. For the extension course given by the American history department of the University there is always a steady demand for books, while we have been swamped by the requests for books for the extension courses in Home Economics outlined by Miss Loomis and Mrs. Davission.

In past years we have had so many requests from high school students for material for graduating essays, on such unsuitable subjects very often, that a year ago we prepared a list of suggestive titles and sent it out to all the high schools of the state. It met a ready response and we had considerable satisfaction, when supplying material for the essays, in knowing that we were directing the attention of our boys and girls to subjects for profitable study and discussion.

Admitting books to parcels post has greatly lessened the expense of carriage on small groups of books and doubtless will increase our work with individuals and study clubs. At first we feared that we might have difficulty in collecting the postage due on outgoing packages but we find that borrowers seldom neglect to send it in. Not only is it cheaper to send books by parcels post than by express but it is much more convenient, particularly for our patrons who live at a considerable distance from the railroad and express office, but whose mail is delivered every day by Uncle Sam.

Publicity

While believing firmly in advertising for educational as well as commercial enterprises, we have always been in a position of hardly daring to advertise since we were already taxed to the limit of our resources. However, we do feel that it is desirable to let the people of the state know what is being done by the departments maintained by state appropriations and each year we have had an exhibit at the State Fair which has given us an opportunity to meet many of our old patrons, and talk to any one who might be interested. This year we were given a very good booth in the new building which gave us plenty of space to display our posters, maps and books. We are convinced of the value of the State Fair exhibit. This fall we have already had 125 inquiries for information in regard to traveling libraries and have sent out many books which we can definitely trace to our State Fair exhibit while there are doubtless others which might be traced to it.

Our friends do a good deal of advertising for us. An occasional reference to our work in the editorial columns of the agricultural papers, or by instructors at teachers' institutes or by county superintendents in their circular letters always brings results.

If we had more books to send out and could make a systematic campaign to let the people of the state know what we were doing, we could easily double our work in the next biennium.

SUMMARY OF TRAVELING LIBRARY LOANS

Groups of Taxpayers		Public Libraries		School and College Libraries		Study Clubs		Individuals		Charitable Institutions		Total	
Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	Request Filled	Volumes Loaned	No. of Requests	Number of Volumes Loaned
263	12,350	169	8,336	308	12,992	130	1,177	1,082	5,447	10	288	1,962	40,59

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Since April 1, 1911, the Library Commission has had supervision of the libraries in the state institutions and to it has been made the appropriation for their maintenance. Their progress in the past two years is set forth in the following report by Miss Florence Waugh who has the work in charge.

Library work in our state institutions has been developing steadily and we feel that the library as a part of the institution is growing in popularity. Everywhere the books and periodicals are well used. This biennium, aside from purchasing books, we have subscribed quite largely to periodicals, as in this way our readers are able to keep in touch with the outside world.

At the Boys' Industrial School at Kearney, it is necessary to duplicate our list in order to supply each of the play rooms of the different cottages with magazines, as a main reading room seems to be impracticable. The following periodicals are provided for the boys: St. Nicholas, Youths' Companion, Travel, National Geographic, Scientific American and Supplement, Technical World, Popular Mechanics, World's Work, Field and Stream, Outing, Country Gentleman, Saturday Evening Post, Boy Life, American Boy and Little Folks.

The possibility of a reading room in one of our state hospitals for the insane is something that we are eagerly anticipating. At the Lincoln State Hospital the beautiful new recreation room is to be used on trial as a general reading room, and the experiment will be watched with great interest. The current numbers of the periodicals will be used here, the back numbers being sent to the wards in our present plan. We will endeavor to obtain all newspapers from the home counties of the patients and will also use attractive illustrated books here. Attendants will be in charge, and we expect a great deal of pleasure to be taken by the patients from this room. It is significant that in our three state hospitals, Norfolk with the smallest number of patients, has the largest book circulation. We think this is in a large measure due to the fact that the patients are allowed there to come to the library and make their own selection. At Ingleside, the number of attendants who take advantage of the library is gratifying.

The circulation of periodicals in the penitentiary, so that the men would

receive regularly the magazines they wished most to see, has been a problem. If a man wants to read the Scientific American, the Saturday Evening Post is not a satisfactory substitute or vice versa. The men were asked to select from a list, the five magazines they would like most to receive. From these requests we have compiled lists of the mens' names by consecutive cell number. These lists are pasted on the cover of the magazine with the request that they be kept not longer than three days and passed on. The magazines are now circulating in this manner. The book circulation—1141, a monthly average—shows the use the men make of the books. The total circulation for the biennium was 27,390 and of this 32.87% was non-fiction. We are trying to build up an interesting and practical collection of non-fiction to encourage the men to use their time profitably. We welcome any request from the men for non-fiction not in the library. If it is a book that will be of permanent value to the library it is purchased, if not it is borrowed from the city or University library. A supplement of books purchased during the biennium was printed and added to the catalogs. We have been very fortunate in the assistance we have had at the penitentiary, our present librarian and his predecessors giving splendid service.

In writing of his library work with the men at the penitentiary, one of our former librarians says, "A prison library can be the drive wheel on the engine of discipline." This same man, whose first introduction to a library was in our state prison, after his release sent in from one of our far western counties for a traveling library for the girls and boys of the community. The books had to be hauled thirty miles from the railroad. This fall he sent for another library and sent an additional request for books for the nearest school. Still later, another request was received from this same district. We are proud indeed of the work this man is voluntarily doing and to know that his interest in libraries is a permanent one.

Newspapers and periodicals are popular at the libraries in our Soldiers' Homes. At Burkett, there is a good book circulation, especially in the winter months. The library is used more here than at Milford on account of having a librarian who receives a small salary for his services and who devotes regular time each day to his work.

The librarian at the Hospital for the Tuberculous, one of the patients, is taking a correspondence course in library work through the Commission office. She is now cataloging the books in the hospital library.

At the Industrial Home for Women we are trying to awaken an interest in helpful books by buying cook-books, gardening books, books on nursing sewing, etc.

The books in the library at the State Home for Feeble-Minded are much appreciated by the children. We find these children wonderfully responsive to story-telling, listening with the interest of normal children, and remembering for months afterwards a story told. That a story has the power to concentrate and hold their attention suggests that a librarian might be a valuable addition to the teaching force in schools for this class of children.

The library room at the Girls' Industrial School at Geneva had to be given up on account of overcrowded conditions, but the books, which are temporarily divided among the school rooms, are to be shelved in a new building being erected.

We are also to have a room in a new building at the School for the Deaf, in which we will have a collection of beautiful picture books for small children. In no other institution do we consider a library more important than here, and when one realizes what books must mean to the deaf, it is a matter of wonder that the library is not more emphasized in schools for the deaf generally. We want reading to be a pleasure, not a task, to the deaf children in our state and to accomplish this it is necessary to create a love for books among the little children. There is a good collection of books at Omaha, but the library is almost too small to use for a reading room. The older children can take the books from the library, but the little ones who are hardly old enough to be responsible for the care of books, have not been able to have library privileges. It is for these that the new room has been planned, and we hope here to introduce all the little children to the many joys of "Story-book Land."

At the Orthopedic Hospital, the library work has been especially satisfactory. Dr. H. W. Orr, the superintendent, is deeply interested in the education of crippled children, and after our library had been established two years, he thought the importance of the work justified the appointment of a librarian who would devote her entire time to the library, and Miss Eva Colby was appointed. Miss Colby is particularly well qualified for her work, as she was a patient at the hospital for several years and intimately understands the needs of her patrons. She is naturally fond of books, and aside from the instruction in library science furnished by the Commission, has taken the special course in children's work at the Iowa Summer Library School. Her time is divided between the various wards of the hospital, and the library room. In each ward, she tells stories or reads aloud once a week, and books are circulated among the bed patients each day. The ward work is done while the children who are able to be up are in school. A story hour is held for these children Saturday afternoon in the library. In the new building, soon to be completed at the hospital, the library is to occupy a beautiful, well lighted room, 23x55 on the first floor. The Commission is much pleased with the space that has been given for the library, and expect it to be one of the most attractive children's rooms in the state. The Art Department of the Woman's Club has promised to furnish a handsome picture for the room, and doubtless there will be similar contributions. The Boys' Progressive Club hold their meetings once in two weeks in the library. The programs consist of debates, current events, parliamentary drill and an occasional talk on some subject of interest. The aim of the club is to train the boys in citizenship and to direct them to profitable reading. The club membership is constantly changing, so a good many boys receive, we hope, some benefit and inspiration from these meetings. The Commission is grateful to Mr. J. L. Kennard, Dr. Edwin Maxey, Mr. Cloyd Stewart, Mr. Leslie Welsh and Mr. Victor Deakin for their assistance with the club. Mrs. Orr has a chapter of the Camp Fire Girls at the hospital. The law of the Camp Fire is "Seek beauty: Give service: Pursue knowledge: Be trustworthy: Hold on to health: Glorify work: Be happy." This organization has been planned by specialists to develop the very best in girls and to awaken them to the true joys of living. Realizing what these clubs mean to the girls and boys at the Orthopedic, we long to see similar ones in all of our institutions for juveniles. We believe that a resident librarian, who had specialized in work with children, could accomplish results of real value and

permanent good among the children and young people in our state institutions.

The Library Commission wishes to express its appreciation of the services of all who are assisting—many without extra compensation—in the libraries of our institutions. The success of our work depends in a large measure on their efforts and we are indebted for their hearty co-operation.



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes added, December 1, 1912, to November 30, 1914.....	8,821
Total number of volumes in library, December 1, 1914.....	18,585
Number of volumes sent out, December 1, 1912, to December 1, 1914.	40,590
Number of requests in response to which books were sent.....	1,962
Increase in volumes sent out over last biennium.....	34%
Increase in number of requests.....	50%

Expenditures, December 1, 1912, to December 1, 1914

Books.....	\$2,551.43
Travel.....	512.72
Binding.....	625.32
Printing.....	171.97
Office	
Stationery, forms, etc.....	\$388.90
Telephone.....	137.75
Furniture and equipment.....	275.47
Postage.....	235.00
Express and drayage.....	409.00
Shipping boxes.....	240.78
Dues to organizations.....	14.00
Printed material for distribution.....	122.90 1,828.80
Extra assistance.....	109.48
Secretary.....	8,000.00
Librarian.....	1,800.00
Institution Librarian.....	1,800.00
State institutions.....	8,726.15
 Total.....	 <hr/> \$15,820.87

Budget as Appropriated 1913-1915, and Estimated 1915-1917

	Budget Appropriated 1913-1915	Budget Estimated 1915-1917	Increase
Books.....	\$2,200.00	\$5,000.00	\$2,800.00
Travel.....	600.00	600.00	.....
Binding.....	700.00	700.00	.....
Office expenses.....	1,800.00	2,400.00	600.00
Extra assistance.....	150.00	500.00	350.00
Printing.....	300.00	300.00	.....
Institution libraries.....	3,650.00	3,650.00	.....
Secretary.....	3,000.00	3,000.00	.....
Librarian.....	1,800.00	1,800.00	.....
Institution librarian.....	1,800.00	1,800.00	.....
 Total.....	 \$16,000.00	 \$19,750.00	 \$3,750.00

LIBRARIES NOT SUPPORTED BY TAXATION

TOWN	Population	Volumes	Patrons	LIBRARIAN
Beaver Crossing.....	542	360	35	Mrs. Annis Barnes
Blair.....	2,584	1,200	25	Edith Schmaling
Bridgeport.....	541	632	60	Mrs. Rose Jeffords
Clay Center.....	1,065	700	500	Kathryn Epperson
Creighton.....	1,373	300	200	Mrs. Frank Moore
Decatur ¹	782	.....	.....	.....
Edgar ¹	1,060	.....	.....	.....
Exeter.....	916	485	399	Mrs. J. B. Klotz
Lexington.....	2,059	800	35	E. C. Newland
Murray.....	183	297	265	Pauline Oldham
Nelson.....	978	1,203	409	Mrs. Dora Mauck
Oak.....	237	500	.....	.....
Ogallala.....	643	170	118	Hester Welpton
Orleans.....	942	850	60	Mrs. Geo. Wallace
Palmyra.....	334	222	.....	Mrs. Kate Burton
Pender.....	804	1,000	50	Eleanor Murray
Randolph.....	1,137	1,027	105	Nella A. Thorndike
Salem.....	391	357	60	Irene Spurlock
Shubert.....	311	140	.....	Mrs. W. E. Shook
Waterloo.....	402	575	.....	Lillian Coates
Wayside.....	39	139	19	Mrs. F. S. Baird
Weeping Water.....	1,067	650	.....	Mrs. Mary Jameson

¹Failed to report.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Volumes	Librarian
Luther College.....	Wahoo.....	4,000	Aleda Johnson
Bellevue College.....	Bellevue.....	6,500	Lida M. Churchill
Brownell Hall.....	Omaha.....	1,130	Ethel Dietrich
Cotner University.....	Bethany.....	3,340	Josie Somers
Creighton University.....	Omaha.....	46,000	W. T. Kinsella
Doane College.....	Crete.....	13,014	Christian Dick
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island.....	7,200	Harriet Craig
Hastings College.....	Hastings.....	5,000	.....
Nebraska Wesleyan.....	University Place.....	7,749	May Ingles
Union College.....	College View.....	5,000	Leo Thiel
York College.....	York.....	2,000	Helen Sailing
Chadron State Normal.....	Chadron.....	2,063	Mabel Harris
Kearney State Normal.....	Kearney.....	10,435	Anna V. Jennings
Peru State Normal.....	Peru.....	22,663	Elva Rulon
Wayne State Normal.....	Wayne.....	3,995	Mrs. Anna Bright
University of Nebraska.....	Lincoln.....	116,008	Malcolm G. Wyer

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Volumes	Head of Department
State Library.....	Lincoln.....	69,480	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Commission.....	Lincoln.....	13,479	Charlotte Templeton
Legislative Reference Bureau.....	Lincoln.....	1,250	A. E. Sheldon
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln.....	51,700	C. S. Paine

In order to see how our Library Commission work and library conditions in Nebraska compare with those of other states, we give below some statistics from neighboring states. We have taken the rural population statistics of the census as a basis of comparison for travelling library work, since the U. S. census classes as rural all population in the country and in towns of less than 2,500, which is the population served by the travelling library. It will be seen from these comparative statistics that Nebraska ranks very creditably in her library conditions.

STATE	Population	Rural Population (Total Towns of Under 2,500 Pop.)	Annual Appropriation	Volumes in Travelling Library Depart'mt	Number Volumes Sent Out in Year	Number Seats Out per 1000 Rural Population	Number of Circulations for Each Volume in Library	Number Requests per 1000 Rural Population	No. Public Libraries in State	Total Tax Supported	No. Public Libraries per 10,000 Total Population
Indiana.....	2,700,876	1,557,041	\$12,500.00	13,000	32,559	20.9	2.5	.669	.42	173	.64
Iowa.....	2,224,771	1,544,717	11,000.00	25,827	31,789	20.5	1.1	1,789	1.1	115	.51
Minnesota.....	2,975,708	1,325,414	15,500.00	30,385	33,522	27.1	1	2,480	2	92	.44
Missouri.....	3,298,335	1,894,518	7,100.00	15,004	15,700	8.8	1	467	.24	28	.08
North Dakota.....	577,056	513,820	8,000.00	10,840	8,116	15.8	.74	228	.46	53	.98
*Wisconsin.....	2,933,860	1,329,540	.....	38,845	48,389	36.3	1.2	1,001	.75	150	.64
Nebraska.....	1,192,214	881,363	8,000.00	13,635	21,762	24.7	1.6	1,126	1.2	76	.698

*Figures taken from 1912 report.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Population	Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Per Capita Circul.	LIBRARIAN
Ainsworth.....	1,045	2	\$300.00	1,657	342	5,859	5.6	Mrs. Anna T. Toliver
Albion.....	1,584	1 1/2	600.00	2,500	780	8,510	6.3	Mrs. Jennie Gradon
Alliance.....	3,105	2	1,300.00	2,464	2,449	12,911	4.1	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
Alma.....	1,066	3	643.00	2,000	692	3,860	3.6	Mrs. Jennie Taylor
Ashland.....	1,379	2	600.00	2,010	810	7,170	5.2	Erma Laughlin
Auburn.....	2,729	1	600.00	1,100	915	4,884	1.8	Lillian Scofield
Aurora.....	2,630	1 1/2	1,400.00	5,008	1,800	21,600 ¹	8.2	Lillian Moore
Beatrice.....	9,356	2	3,000.00	13,866	2,650	38,997	4.1	Frances Morton
Bloomfield.....	1,264	3	500.00	800	150	4	Mrs. L. G. Crosby	
Broken Bow.....	2,260	3	1,100.00	2,450	300	9,360 ¹	4.1	Emily Robertson
Burwell.....	9,115	3	500.00	750	569	6,240 ¹	6.8	Ruth Holson
Carroll.....	382	1	80.00	300	35	4	Mrs. J. H. Melick	
Cedar Rapids.....	576	2	1,000.00	2,372	1,312	7,098	2.9	Edith L. Melvin
Central City.....	2,428	2	1,230.00	2,124	618	12,236	4.5	Margaret Anderson
Chadron.....	2,687	3	750.00	1,412	948	2,012	1.3	Mrs. Eliza O'L. Smith
College View.....	1,508	3	2,000.00	3,573	1,221	17,540	3.2	Hattie Abbott
Columbus.....	5,014	1 7/30	430.00	925	240	2,895	2.1	Clara Howard
Crawford.....	1,323	2	1,000.00	4,850	375	8,021	3.3	Mrs. Nelle Shumway
Crete.....	2,405	2	425.00	3,619	650	7,000	3.2	Christian Dick
David City.....	2,177	1	350.00	1,200	470	5,000 ¹	7	Lillian Simpkins
De Witt.....	675	2	2,000.00	4,642	1,332	27,175	5.1	Marie Carmichael
Fairbury.....	5,294	2	600.00	1,199	336	3	Mary McQuaid	
Fairfield.....	1,054	3	1,800.00	7,000	925	30,791	9.4	Emily Fowler
Falls City.....	3,255	1 1/2	2,500.00	8,002	1,624	35,000 ¹	4	Mary Hutchings
Fremont.....	8,718	1 1/2	700.00	694	452	4	Florence Wells	
Friend.....	1,261	3	600.00	1,807	657	13,943	8.5	Sadie Mosier
Fullerton.....	1,638	2	1,000.00	2,812	165	7,137	4.1	Mrs. Maude Johnson
Geneva.....	1,741	3	250.00	907	626	1,331	Nellie Williams	
Genoa.....	1,376	2	1,000.00	1,331	626	7,172	Mrs. C. H. Shields	
Gibbon ²	1,251	2					5.4	Mattie Pierce

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population	Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Per Capita Circul.	LIBRARIAN	
Grand Island.....	10,826	\$4	2,200.00	6,729	2,051	22,477	2.1	Daisy Houck	
Hastings.....	1,418	\$1	1,000.00	1,250	232	31,387	3.3	Mrs. B. Ready	
Hastings.....	9,888	\$1	1,500.00	6,146	4,000	9,581	3.6	Mrs. Ida Capps	
Havelock.....	2,680	\$2	1,200.00	2,371	1,404	12,490	4.1	Mrs. Susie Smith	
Holdrege.....	8,030	\$2	1,288.00	3,276	1,026	3,276	3	Mrs. H. E. Bush	
Hooper.....	741	\$2	480.00	398	276	1,000	6.6	Joel Warner	
Humboldt.....	1,176	\$2	600.00	2,500	1,000	8,600	7.7	Mrs. J. K. Liggett	
Kearney.....	6,202	\$2	2,350.00	10,000	3,840	48,000	7.7	Mrs. Pauline Frank	
Laurel.....	514	\$8	400.00	562	500	2,600	5	R. L. Lathrop	
Lincoln.....	43,972	.....	9,700.00	36,696	11,285	199,091	4.5	Lulu Horne
Longserville.....	778	\$1	170.00	768	800	2,577	3.3	Edith Shyrock	
McCook.....	3,765	\$2	1,100.00	5,416	4,197	10,962	2.9	Grace Willets	
Madison.....	1,708	\$3	1,000.00	1,949	1,281	9,854	6.7	Anna Baas	
Minden.....	1,559	\$2	600.00	2,760	1,050	9,781	6.2	Mrs. Helen Slusser	
Nebraska City.....	5,488	\$1	1,600.00	6,809	1,088	15,000	2.7	Anna Stevenson	
Nelson.....	1,666	\$1	500.00	2,400	646	10,177	6.4	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones	
Norfolk.....	6,125	\$2	1,800.00	2,554	1,650	14,851	2.4	Helen Lohdell	
North Bend.....	1,105	\$3	720.00	1,553	600	6,876	5.7	Laura Rount	
North Platte.....	4,793	\$1	1,800.00	3,040	1,850	14,400	3	Mrs. Mary Jones	
Omaha.....	124,096	\$10	30,000.00	97,515	20,313	287,174	2.3	Edith Tobitt	
O'Neill.....	2,858	\$1	500.00	500	215	.....	3	Mayme Coffey
Otoe City.....	1,105	\$4	250.00	890	2,249	11,022	7.6	Martha Herrmann	
Pawnee City.....	1,610	\$3	1,068.00	1,068	1,211	200	2,854	1.9	Myrtle Parkinson
Pierce.....	1,200	\$2	600.00	1,800	427	6,010	6.3	Mrs. Belle Cate	
Plainview.....	941	\$8	500.00	6,141	1,700	17,146	4	Bertha Weingartner	
Plattsmouth.....	4,287	\$1	950.00	1,800	820	8,485	8.4	C. Olive Jones	
Ponca.....	1,000	\$8	450.00	1,000	2,776	20,368	9.4	Mrs. M. Lipe	
Schuyler.....	2,162	\$2	1,100.00	1,100	1,781	.....	.....	Eleanor Wheeler
Scribner.....	2,106	\$14	.....	1,092.00	1,372	8,104	3.8	Verna Bowles
Seward.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	M. Belle Schleck

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population	Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Per Capita Circul.	LIBRARIAN
Shelton*	1,462	2	1,200.00	2,654	356	5,885	4	Mrs. Constance Corbett
Sidney	1,185	3	5,000.00	1,063	150	37,801	1.4	Mrs. Grace Pinnell
South Omaha	26,259	1	100.00	9,234	2,767	...	...	Vera Lee
Spalding	637	1	100.00	400	275	...	...	Elsie Strahle
Stanton	1,342	2	800.00	1,397	63	...	...	Mrs. Rhoda Rice
Sterling	704	2	300.00	982	200	4,105	5.8	Mrs. Lucy Conn
Superior	2,106	2	700.00	4,570	1,652	23,528	11	Ida Rolland
Sutton	1,702	2	650.00	2,008	786	9,136	5.3	Grace Barbee
Syracuse	842	1	200.00	1,630	506	1,500	1.9	Mrs. C. Titzell
Talmage	461	2	200.00	883	569	2,077	4.5	Mrs. Mary Appelget
Tecumseh	1,748	2	600.00	2,747	695	5,942	3.2	Mr. Sina Hypes
Wakeland	861	1	150.00	1,702	574	4,547	5.2	Mrs. Eva Davies
Wayne	2,140	3	1,100.00	2,600	1,171	11,357	5.3	Mrs. Emma Dysart
Winslow	460	3	304.00	1,100	300	4,050	9.4	Jessie Kay
Wisner	1,081	1	235.00	1,596	...	...	...	Anna Horn
Wood River	796	1	650.00	2,174	401	4,962	6.2	Lorena Wilson
York	6,235	2	2,278.68	6,719	3,459	24,156	3.8	

*Estimated.

**Township.

*Organized less than a year.

*Failed to report.

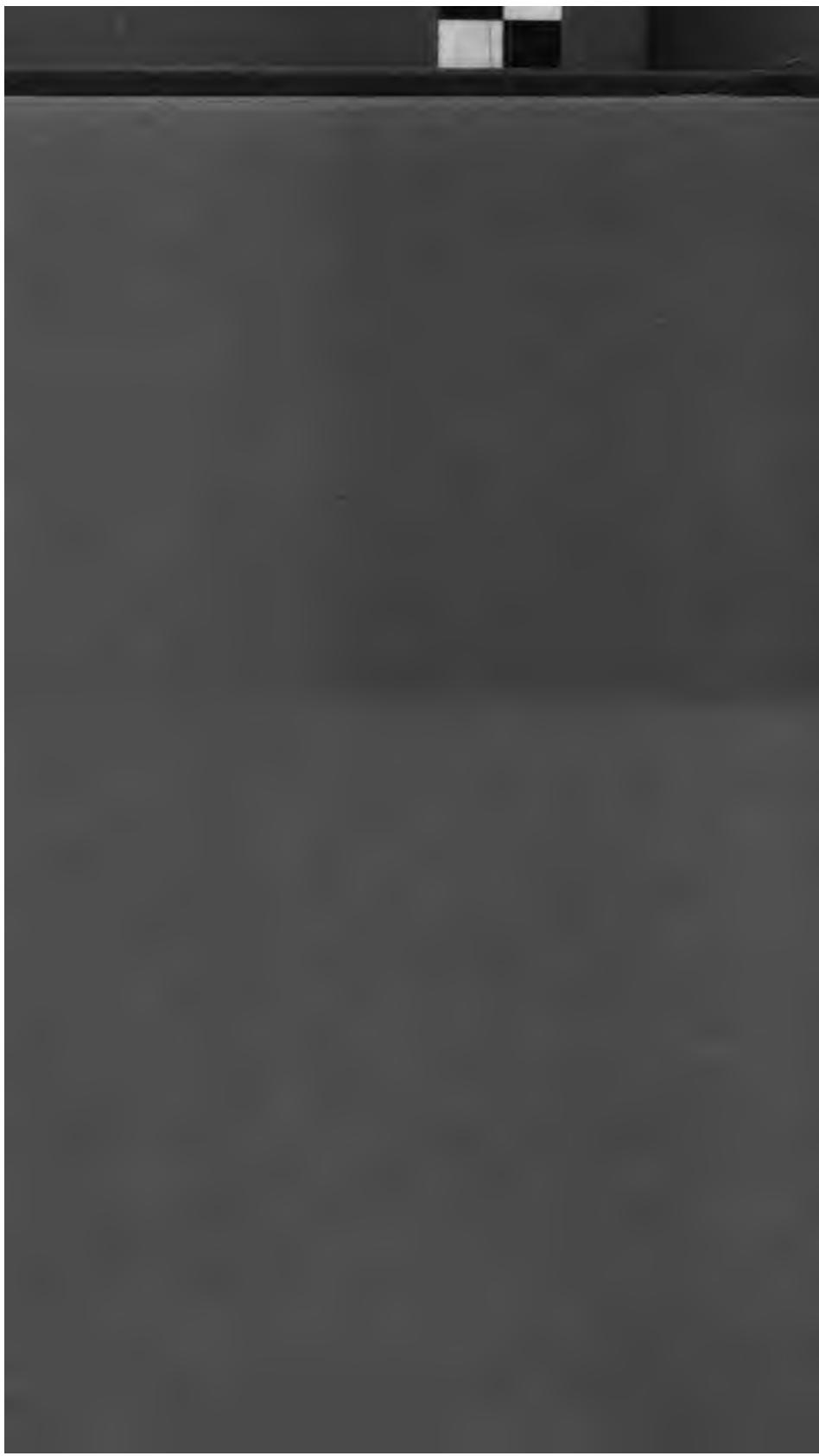
Benson, Dundee and Ralston have all voted a library tax and will contract with the Omaha Public Library for its privileges.

Gothenburg and Harvard have passed library ordinances and have each made a 3 mill levy, but have not yet organized their libraries.

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Eighth
Biennial Report
NEBRASKA
P U B L I C
L I B R A R Y
Commission





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Eighth Biennial Report
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of the

Nebraska Public Library
Commission

Lincoln - Nebraska

November 30, 1916

1916
THE WOODRUFF BANK NOTE CO.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Nebraska Public Library Commission

M. G. WYER, PRESIDENT
Librarian of the University of Nebraska

S. AVERY
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

A. O. THOMAS
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY
State Librarian

C. A. SOMMER, Lincoln

CHARLOTTE TEMPLETON, Secretary

JULIET M. VORE, Librarian

NELLIE WILLIAMS
Librarian for State Institutions

Under Public money

10/11/32

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, John H. Morehead, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1916.

For sixteen years, the activities of this Commission have been exerting a quiet but far-reaching influence for the betterment of library conditions throughout the state. This influence has resulted not only in the establishment of new public libraries, but in stimulating the work of libraries already existing, in securing many Carnegie buildings, in developing library facilities in the state institutions and in furnishing traveling libraries for all parts of the state. I wish especially to emphasize the importance of the Library Commission as the public library for the entire state and to call attention to the wide scope of its services in cooperating with individuals, schools, woman's clubs, agricultural agents, debating societies, small libraries and the extension departments of the University by supplying books and printed material that could be secured in no other way. The demands from these sources far exceed the ability of the Commission to supply and indeed the entire resources of the Commission could be expended in this one phase of the work without meeting the demands of the people. I doubt if any other state department can show a greater direct service to the people in proportion to the appropriation available.

I commend the detailed report of the Secretary to your careful attention.

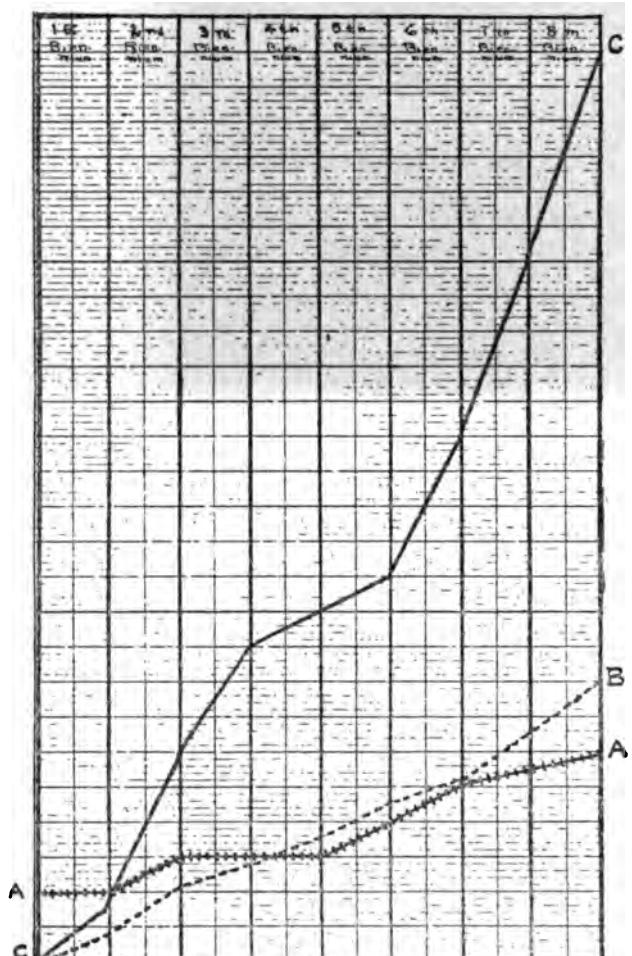
Very truly yours,

MALCOLM G. WYER,

President.

December 6, 1916.

GROWTH OF TRAVELING LIBRARY WORK
1901-1916



A—Appropriation (exclusive of appropriation for Institution Libraries).
B—Number of volumes in Travelling Library.
C—Number of volumes sent out through Traveling Libraries.

NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Secretary's Report

The report which follows covers the library progress of the state for the two years from December 1, 1914, to November 30, 1916. It has been a period of encouraging growth. More new public libraries have been established than in any previous biennium; the use of public libraries has increased; city councils have expressed their confidence in the library by granting larger levies; and librarians have been more earnest and resourceful in their endeavors to give their communities better service. The Traveling Library has been taxed to the limit of its resources by the demands made upon it and has reached through its loans the remotest parts of the state. Not only is the year's report encouraging in comparison with our own previous growth, but in examining the reports of other states, we find that we are keeping pace, in proportion to our population and resources, with the most progressive library states.

The Library Commission.

There have been several changes in the Library Commission during the biennium. Mr. A. O. Thomas, succeeding Mr. J. E. Delzell as State Superintendent in January, 1915, became ex officio a member of the Commission. The term of Mr. F. L. Haller expired in May, 1916, and Mr. C. A. Sommer of Lincoln was appointed to succeed him. Miss Florence Waugh, who had had charge of the State Institution libraries since 1911, when the Commission took over the supervision of them, resigned in October, 1915, to be married, and Miss Nellie Williams of Geneva was appointed to her position.

Mr. Haller at the time of his retirement was chairman of the Commission. The Commission met for reorganization on June 2, 1916, and elected Mr. Wyer chairman. At the same meeting the following resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, Mr. F. L. Haller retires at this time from membership in the Nebraska Library Commission, after a continuous service since the organization of the Commission in 1901, during the last ten years of which he was President; and Whereas, his devotion to the library interests of Nebraska has been shown by his cooperation in making possible the establishment of the Nebraska Library Commission, by his active interest and enthusiasm in developing its work, by his loyal and wholehearted support of the plans of the Secretary, and by his wise counsel, sound judgment and broad outlook in all its sessions,

Therefore, be it resolved: That the members of the Nebraska Library Commission express to Mr. Haller their deep appreciation of his services as a member of the Commission and their confidence that though no longer a member, the welfare of the Commission will at all times receive his hearty support."

The basement offices of the Commission were damp and dark and in many ways inconvenient. Realizing this fact, in September, 1915, the Board of Public Lands and Buildings assigned to the Commission three rooms on the fourth floor which have proved to be the most satisfactory quarters which the Commission has ever had.

The Commission was represented at the meeting of the American Library Association at Atlantic City in 1916 by Mr. Wyer and at the annual meetings of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago in 1914 and 1915 by the Secretary. The Secretary also attended the meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections in Indianapolis in May, 1916, to take part in a discussion of libraries in State Institutions.

Centralization of State Library Activities.

During the year efforts have been made to work out a plan for the centralization of the library activities in Lincoln supported by the state. There are at present five such library agencies, the State library, and the Library Commission in the Capitol, the University library, the Historical Society library and the Legislative Reference Bureau library on the University campus. Those directly connected with the administration of these libraries agree that, with the strong University library in Lincoln, it will be unnecessary for the State library to develop a general reference collection. Therefore, the plan suggested calls for the erection of a building at the University campus in which shall be housed the University library, the Historical Society, the Library Commission and the Legislative Reference Bureau; also the transfer from the State library to the University library of the collection of works of a general character and the maintenance of the State library as a law library at the Capitol under the control of the Supreme Court. Such a plan has received the approval of the governing bodies of all the organizations concerned and also the endorsement of the Nebraska Library Association. This plan would secure a logical, sensible and efficient centralization of the library resources of the state which would bring beneficial results to the libraries themselves and to all those who make use of them.

Its special advantage to the Library Commission is plain. With the large book collection of the University Library accessible for special reference work, the Commission could serve its patrons far better than will ever be possible with any general collection which it can build up. Moreover if it is no longer necessary to buy books to meet a possible request, all of the book fund can be spent for traveling libraries with the hope of sometime being able to supply the demand.

Public Libraries.

While no systematic campaign has ever been conducted by the Library Commission to stimulate the establishment of public libraries in the state, an effort has always been made to create a general interest in the public library and to encourage every local library movement which a community initiates. Through cooperation with the library committee of the State Federation of Woman's clubs, library sessions have been arranged for district and state meetings of the Federation to enlist the interest of the best friends of civic

improvement in Nebraska, the women's clubs. We owe the establishment of many of our public libraries to the club women and we have at present 35 small libraries, for the most part sustained through their efforts, which will undoubtedly eventually become tax-supported libraries.

On examining the reports of a number of other states, we find that Nebraska makes a creditable showing in the number of tax-supported libraries in proportion to her population. Missouri has .76 libraries for every 100,000 population, North Dakota, 3.4, Minnesota, 4.9, Iowa, 5.9, Indiana, 7.14 while Nebraska ranks with Wisconsin in having 7.5.

The past two years have been marked by unusual library activity. Twelve new libraries have been established, two libraries formerly maintained by associations have been turned over to city control while one library formerly independent has become a branch library through a consolidation of cities. This makes a net gain of 13 tax-supported libraries in the biennium and brings the total number of libraries up to 90. Adding the 35 libraries maintained by clubs and library associations, gives us 125 libraries in the state.

There still remain 19 towns of 1,000 population or over which do not maintain libraries. In 8 of these, libraries are maintained by clubs or library associations, and in 4, a strong public library movement is under way. Eighteen of our tax-supported libraries are in towns of less than 1,000 population. A slight increase is shown in the levies reported; the average rate being 2.3 mills this year as compared with 1.7 mills of four years ago.

A growing appreciation of the library's value to the community is shown in the increasing number of gifts of buildings and books. J. W. Gilbert has presented the town of Friend with a handsome building at a cost of about \$8,000.00; Mr. P. Graves has built and completely equipped a library for the village of Wakefield, as a memorial to his son, at an approximate cost of \$10,000; and J. G. Brenizer of Broken Bow is building a very complete building for the town of Merna. Mr. Hector Maiben, a farmer living near Lincoln, presented the library at College View with \$500.00 for books and the Lincoln City Library with \$1,000.00 for the same purpose. The citizens of Harvard wished to make their library a community center and raised \$3,000.00 to add to the \$6,000.00 which they received from the Carnegie Corporation, to enlarge the building and equip the club rooms in the basement.

The towns which have established new libraries are Arlington, Franklin, Gothenburg, Harvard, Ravenna, Stromsburg, Tekamah, University Place, and the townships at Arcadia, Loup City, Merna and Spencer. At Blair and Clay Center libraries already established have been taken over by the city. Through the consolidation of Omaha and South Omaha, the South Omaha library became a branch of the Omaha library.

Fifteen new library buildings have been completed in the biennium and six more are under construction. The list is as follows:

COMPLETED BUILDINGS

TOWN	Cost	Source	Architect
Broken Bow.....	\$10,000 00	Carnegie.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Clay Center.....	6,000 00	Carnegie.....	C. W. Way, Hastings
College View.....	7,500 00	Carnegie.....	J. G. Cordiner, Lincoln
Columbus.....	13,000 00	Carnegie.....	Charles Wurdeman, Colur
Crete.....	10,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. W. Salmon, Lincoln
Franklin.....	5,000 00	Carnegie.....	Alan McDonald, Omaha
Friend.....	8,000 00	J. W. Gilbert.....	J. W. Salmon, Lincoln
Gothenburg.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Hartington.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Beutler & Arnold, Sioux
Harvard.....	9,000 00	Citizens.....\$3,000—Carnegie.....\$6,000	C. W. Way, Hastings
Plattsmouth.....	12,500 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincol
Stanton.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. E. Stitt, Norfolk
Tekamah.....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	R. W. Grant, Beatrice
University Place.....	13,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. R. Smith, University P
Wakefield.....	10,000 00	P. Graves.....	Donor

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

TOWN	Cost	Source	Architect
Arcadia (township).....	\$7,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincol
Loup City (township).....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincol
Merna (township).....		J. G. Brenizer.....	M. N. Bair, Hastings
Spencer (township).....	8,000 00	Carnegie.....	Alan McDonald, Omaha
Blair.....	10,000 00	Carnegie.....	Fiske & Meginnis, Lincol
Plainview.....	6,000 00	Carnegie.....	J. E. Stitt, Norfolk

The usual assistance has been given to new libraries. Lists of books and supplies have been prepared, advice has been given to library boards and instructions to librarians in the various details of library organization. The Secretary has made 82 library visits varying in length from a few hours to two weeks.

Since most of our libraries are too small to employ trained librarians, a special effort has been made to bring to them the experience of trained workers elsewhere. The Commission has sent to every library in the state the monthly Wisconsin Library Bulletin and the monthly American Library Association Booklist and has subscribed for a number of copies of Public Libraries and the Library Journal for which it has grouped the small libraries, too poor to subscribe for them, in circuits. A correspondence course of 20 lessons covering elementary points of library work is given to new librarians.

In October, 1916, an experiment was tried in the way of a three days library institute for new librarians, preceding the meeting of the State Library Association. This was not the usual library institute given over to informal discussion, but like the old-fashioned teachers' institute, it was a session for definite instruction. The program consisted of three one-hour lectures each morning on reference books, children's work and library administration, and in the afternoon visits were made to the various Lincoln libraries. The librarians of 35 libraries attended the institute and then stayed on for the Library Association. They went back to their libraries with well-filled note books and a great deal of enthusiasm, and undoubtedly the year's work will show good returns for their attendance.

As our libraries increase in number and grow in size and use, there is demand for more training on the part of librarians than the Library Commission with its limited staff can give through personal instruction. The

time has doubtless come when Nebraska should have its own summer library school. In the past our librarians have gone to Wisconsin, Iowa or Minnesota, but for two or three years most of the schools have been filled with their own librarians and could not admit students from outside the state. A six weeks course given by the State University with the cooperation of the Library Commission would meet a demand which is becoming insistent.

Nebraska Library Association.

The State Library Association has held two meetings, at Fremont in 1915 and at Lincoln in 1916. The attendance registered for the Lincoln meeting shows that there were present 42 public library librarians, 20 assistants from libraries of all sorts, 6 librarians of college, normal school or state libraries, 5 library trustees, 3 visiting librarians from outside the state, and 2 persons interested but not in library work, making it very representative of the library interests of the state. Excellent programs, a good attendance and a fine responsiveness from the librarians have marked both meetings of the Association.

Traveling Libraries.

While we believe that the goal to be aimed at in the library development of the state is a strong system of local public libraries, each supplying books to its own community, urban and rural, the attainment of such a complete public library system is many years in the future in Nebraska. In the meantime there are two-thirds of our people without public library facilities and many more having access only to small new libraries with meagre collections of books. For them, the Library Commission must meet the immediate need through its traveling libraries.

In considering the vastness of the field, our resources in a collection of 16,000 volumes is seen to be absurdly inadequate. Necessarily we are doing only a small part of the work which lies before us. We can only report that we are doing the best we can, and a consultation of the diagram in the front of this report will show that our work has at least grown with every increase of our resources.

We have sent out in the biennium 51,372 volumes in response to 3,342 requests as compared with 40,590 volumes and 1,962 requests in the last biennium. These books have gone to 461 shipping stations to 88 counties, showing a very wide geographical distribution.

The most notable addition to our traveling library collection was about 1,000 German books from which we made 26 fixed traveling library groups. These fill an often expressed want of small public libraries in German communities which wished to supply German patrons with books in the mother tongue but which could not afford to buy enough books always to have something fresh for them.

The Bohemians having been supplied with books a number of years ago and the Germans being now provided for, there remain two foreign groups for whom we should buy books, the Danes and the Swedes. The Danish people have petitioned the Library Commission for Danish traveling libraries, but no money being available it has not been possible as yet to meet their request.

obtain these books made it possible for them to carry on their work because the supply of books was exhausted. Wilson, in charge of the Home Economics Extension, says, "Our work is greatly handicapped because the Library does not furnish a sufficient number of books to supply the demands."

SUMMARY OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES

1914-1916

Groups of Taxpayers	Public Libraries		Schools		Study Clubs		Individuals	
	Re- quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests Filled	Vols. Loaned		
831	16,665	254	7,784	518	19,592	145	1,841	2,087

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Report of the Librarian.

The work of the institution libraries continues to progress. The Library Commission and its progress shows a definite benefit to the shut-in citizenship. Rather than give statistics and then give the word of some of our patients, we will mean to them.

There are three of the thirteen institution libraries which have been unable to obtain reports of circulation, though records have been kept in all of them, and two others cover only seven months.

To give the more significance to these figures, it seems but fair to say that of the 4,700 inmates in all the institutions, but 1,800 are able to make any use of the libraries. In some, according to statistics from the Superintendents, the proportion able to use the library is as low as 15% or 20%. In others it reaches 80% or 90%.

Bearing in mind the abnormal mental and physical conditions in several places, and the fact that institution life is a busy one for the able-bodied, these figures stand for more than the mere numbers signify.

Though the reports of Superintendents show the per cent of high school graduates very small, with a great majority of the adult inmates below the eighth grade, it is gratifying to note the type of books which they enjoy. Nor has our standard of selection in any case been lowered on account of the educational deficiencies of our patrons.

Our aim is to consider carefully the nature of the foundation upon which we are building and in each book added there is a hope that the choice will be justified by its use among the people. From the weighty problem of trying to prove the abiding influence of good literature in the face of possible conflicts, to the question of the remedial value of books upon those mentally ill, there is a conscientious desire to adapt the books to the people in every instance.

The combined number of volumes in our libraries is 13,191, most of which have been bought by the Commission since it began its institutional library work in 1911. The Penitentiary has 3,600 volumes, 1,100 volumes bought by us with 2,500 volumes previously in the library. Burkett has 2,020 volumes, also with many of earlier gift. The Orthopedic Hospital has 1,180 volumes and the School for the Deaf, 1,675. Due to its fewer years, the Tuberculous Hospital has the smallest book collection but it is developing into a very workable one. There is great interest shown in the nature study books for which the patients made special request.

The question of housing the institution libraries is an important one. Because of crowded conditions, it is not always possible to secure the most desirable quarters but the fact that the best available locations have been given us proves the interest of the Superintendents. In some cases the library has been given the most beautiful room in the institution. Where it is not so satisfactorily placed, we are simply sharing the disadvantage with other departments.

Plans for improved library quarters are being considered in some places. In others our hope has already been realized. At the Girls' Industrial School, the library is now placed permanently in the auditorium of the new building. At the Boys' Industrial School, the library has been redecorated and greatly beautified by new bookcases made by the boys. The library at the School for the Deaf has been moved to a cosy corner space. They also have new book cases which were made in their carpenter shop. At the Lincoln State Hospital, a reading room in the amusement hall has been opened, new shelving has been built, and for two hours daily the patients have access to the books and periodicals. This change in location has come about because the Superintendent, Dr. B. F. Williams, regards the book as a curative agent and to that end he has emphasized the importance of its use. At the Home for the Feeble-Minded

and at the Tuberculous Hospital we have just moved into roomy, sunny quarters in their new buildings. At the School for the Deaf the choicest of locations is provided for the very little children.

The time which the libraries are open for the exchange of books varies, according to local conditions, from one hour a week, two hours a day, to any hour of every day. In six instances there are reading rooms in connection with the libraries. In two others there are rooms elsewhere in which people may gather to read.

Even with the cooperation of the Superintendent, with our books upon the shelves and the reader ever with us, the problem of an effective library is not solved. The books and the people must be brought together and that with unusual delicacy of touch. So we face the question of service along with all other departments of the institutions.

At the Penitentiary, the Old Soldiers' Home at Burkett and the Orthopedic Hospital we have the advantage of librarians who do that work exclusively. At the latter Miss Eva Colby continues her efficient work and cheers many a little child by her story-telling. In the other institutions it is almost necessarily a combination position, which varies from superintendent to inmate, including matron, secretary, teacher, nurse, stenographer and telephone operator. In spite of several changes within the past year, in almost every case we have enjoyed the conscientious service of faithful helpers without whom our libraries could not have flourished.

At the School for the Deaf, the Home for the Feeble-Minded, the Industrial Schools for Girls and Boys, and the Industrial Home for Women, the teachers have given very generously of their time and have materially increased the effectiveness of our work. The assistance we have had from nurses and others in the Hospitals for the Insane has been the means of verifying the statement of physicians that books do have a therapeutic value. To all who have helped us we wish to pay tribute.

Since we know that some of our institution citizenship will in time return to an unrestrained manner of life, it has been our policy to give some instruction in the use of the library,—in classification, the use of the catalog, the charging system,—that they may feel at ease in the use of the public library. To this we expect to give further systematic attention during the coming year.

We have in two cases a more or less public organ through which we make ourselves known. At the School for the Deaf and the Boys' Industrial School there are creditable little papers issued, most of the work being done by the boys. In the columns of the Nebraska Journal, library notes appear from time to time and in the Industrial School Times we have a place each week.

Because the nurse in the hospital is the person naturally in position to bring the book to the patient, a series of talks on Books and Reading was given last winter to the nurses at the Lincoln State Hospital. These included one on the use of the library, one on how to get patients to read, one on out-door books, one on popular books of non-fiction, and one on poetry. They were developed from a syllabus prepared by Miss Edith Kathleen Jones, Librarian of McLean Hospital, Waverly, Massachusetts, and covered a period of about three months. We feel that it was at least worth while to come into personal

touch with the nurses on whom so much of the hospital library work must necessarily devolve. Moreover, we were rewarded by seeing some definite results as an outcome of this work. In abbreviated form parts of these talks were also given to the nurses at the Norfolk Hospital for the Insane.

As another means of increasing the interest in the hospital libraries, we tried an experiment of reading aloud to the patients in the Lincoln Hospital for the Insane. It proved to be a very popular diversion for both men and women and invitations to read on various wards were numerous. This was continued one afternoon a week all winter and became an entering wedge in the development of the work. Not only did some of the nurses begin to read on the wards, but our librarian now spends a part of library hours each day reading to the patients gathered in the library.

It is a mistaken idea on the part of many people that the insane are unable to read or are too uninterested to care for books, but we think we can disabuse the minds of such by giving the patient's own word upon the matter. The opinion, too, is rife that they wish only the determinedly cheerful books, those which merely entertain, but one of our nurses in an eastern hospital tells of an insane patient who calls for the "big brave books, with problems of life to be fought."

As proof that our patients are reading and are appreciative of the hospital libraries, we wish them to speak by means of the following letters which were collected recently from the three insane hospitals. These few are selected from many more and are in the exact wording of the patients who wrote them.

"I must write you as I have been so much interested in the book *Pollyanna*. It was a great help to me because it makes me remember many things which I have to be glad about, even if I am locked up. I can be glad I am not in as bad condition as many about me. I am glad for my clean dresses and for the nurses and patient friends who are so kind to me. I am glad for the squirrels and birds that play among the trees."

"Being a lover of good books, I have certainly appreciated the books which the nurses distribute from time to time throughout the different wards. When one can sit here in the State Hospital and read such books as the *Efficient Life*, Alice and Phoebe Cary's poems, and so on, it gives the place a sort of homely halo after all."

"There are several branches of the Nebraska Library and one of the most practical in its selection and use is the State Hospital library. It is composed of Current Literature and many volumes from some of our best authors, extra good works. Library day for the men comes three times a week and is looked forward to with much anticipation by many on our ward. It would be regretted if we did not have a chance to make these regular trips to the library."

"Having taken pleasure in reading many books in the library here at Ingle-side, I am very glad to mention my likes in regard to it. I like the books on nature most. "In God's out-doors," "The Alps," "The spell of the Rockies" and others I might mention. Many of the novels are so amusing that they are a great help in passing the time pleasantly. Many of the books point a moral such as "Up from Slavery" by Booker T. Washington which shows what a man can do if he has ambition. Books may do great good. 'May blessings be on the head of Cadmus the Phoenician or whoever it was that invented books.'"

"In behalf of several inmates on 24, allow me to express our appreciation for the privilege of reading the Ingleside state library books, either historical, Biblical or fiction as suits our mood. They indeed help us to while away many moments and instruct us when inclement weather keeps us indoors. We want to thank you for this pleasure and privilege allowed us."

"In appreciation of the reading matter, books, magazines and newspapers furnished Ward II, I am permitted a word of praise. These literary and news advantages have been a source of great pleasure and diversion and no little fund of information during my three months sojourn here."

"As I have never read in but very few books, until I came here, on account of close confinement I began reading the book, *The price of the prairie*. Thought that I would read some for pastime and the book became very interesting to me. Also started another but have not finished it yet. I certainly enjoyed the first but cannot get much interest from the latter which is *Innocence Abroad*."

"I derive much benefit from the books insomuch as they pass the time pleasantly, leave one in a happy state of mind and give food for thought. I specially enjoy those dealing with home life, such as Grace Richmond's, Kathleen Norris, and Eleanor Porter. I also enjoy those of travel and history."

"Among the many pleasant advantages offered by this free institution, the library deserves honorable mention. Any one who is considered able is allowed to draw books and take them to his ward. Among the books which the writer has enjoyed the Oregon trail by Francis Parkman ranks first, as picturing the hardships of the early settler, with its fascination of style and diction which make it interesting as a novel. I also like the writings of Rev. Van Dyke in his "Little Rivers," "Days Off" and others vividly describing fishing and hunting trips. What a difference between the pleasure of listening to choice literature in the commodious library hall and doing all your reading in a ward, surrounded by a group of unfortunates who do not know what they say, nor how they say it, nor when! Surely the library hours are an agreeable change from the daily routine of our life of seclusion. All this is a step in the right direction, conducive to mental healing, resulting in self-control, accompanied by will-power."

Publicity.

The Library Commission has prepared an exhibit each year for the State Fair and has had members of the staff in charge to explain the work of the Commission to those who were interested. The exhibit of 1916, through charts, posters and photographs showed the library development of the state. This same exhibit was afterward sent to Hastings for the meeting of the State Federation of Woman's Clubs, and was used again at the meeting of the State Library Association and has since been loaned to the Pawnee City woman's club for a "library day."

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Total number of volumes in the library, Dec. 1, 1916..... 16,032
Number of volumes loaned, Dec. 1, 1914—Nov. 30, 1916..... 51,372
Number of requests in response to which books were sent..... 3,342
 Increase in number of volumes loaned over last biennium..... 25%
 Increase in number of requests..... 70%
Books were sent to 461 shipping stations in 88 counties.

Expenditures, December 1, 1914, to November 30, 1916

Books.....	\$2,920 69
Travel.....	559 79
Binding.....	277 28
Printing.....	295 13
Office supplies and expenses.....	1,907 42
Extra assistance.....	237 52
Salaries.....	6,600 00
Institution libraries.....	3,003 88
Total.....	\$15,801 71

Libraries not supported by taxation.

In the following towns libraries have been established and are maintained by library associations, woman's clubs, or other organizations.

Beaver Crossing, Bradshaw, Bridgeport, Brock, Clarks, Creighton, Culbertson, Decatur, Dorchester, Elmwood, Eustis, Exeter, Gering, Gresham, Herman, Keystone, Lexington, Minatare, Murray, Nelson, Oak, Ogallala, Orleans, Oxford, Palmyra, Pender, Randolph, St. Paul, Salem, Scottsbluff, Shubert, Valparaiso, Waterloo, Weeping Water, Wymore.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Volumes	Librarian
Bellevue College.....	Bellevue.....	6,750	Lida M. Churchill
Cotner University.....	Bethany.....	3,600	Josie Somers.
Creighton University.....	Omaha.....	47,000	W. T. Kinsella
Dana College.....	Blair.....	3,500	.....
Doane College.....	Crete.....	13,523	Bess Potter
Franklin Academy.....	Franklin.....	5,800	Lucy I. Peck
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island.....	7,200	Martha Firth
Hastings College.....	Hastings.....	6,000	Flora Fisher
Luther College.....	Wahoo.....	3,600	Linus Bonander
Nebraska Wesleyan.....	University Place	8,553	May Ingles
State Normal School.....	Chadron.....	3,110	Mabel Harris
State Normal School.....	Kearney.....	12,817	Anna V. Jennings
State Normal School.....	Peru.....	25,498	Elva E. Rulon
State Normal School.....	Wayne.....	5,563	Mrs. Anna B. Bright
Union College.....	College View.....	6,100	Lulu B. Hiatt
University of Nebraska.....	Lincoln.....	126,000	Malcolm G. Wyer
York College.....	York.....	3,500	G. T. Buswell
Brownell Hall.....	Omaha.....	1,500	Dorothy S. Kintle

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Volumes	Director
State Library.....	Lincoln.....	72,855	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Com'n.....	Lincoln.....	16,032	Charlotte Templeton
Legislative Ref. Bureau.....	Lincoln.....	2,600 ¹	A. E. Sheldon
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln.....	53,000	Mrs. Minnie P. Knott ²

¹Material consists largely of pamphlets and clippings.

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

INSTITUTION	Population (exclusive of Employees)	Number Volumes	Annual Circulation	EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIVUM			
				Periodicals	Books	Printing and Binding	Supplies
Boys' Industrial School.....	180	598	5,168	\$111 45	\$123 06	\$ 13 18	\$16 50
Girls' Industrial School.....	101	780	2,652	58 45	89 30	42 50	15 80
Home for Feeble-Minded.....	613	477	863*	49 25	85 57	28 40	15 80
Hospital for Tuberculosis.....	89	278	.....	49 40	69 75	.....	.....
Industrial Home for Women.....	40	291	.....	30 65	34 70	.....	13 80
Orthopedic Hospital.....	140	1,181	4,374	73 15	192 87	16 60	17 40
Penitentiary.....	380	3,603	24,364	129 55	322 51	149 18	.....
School for Deaf.....	170	1,676	1,817*	26 60 ¹	95 83	42 87	.....
Soldiers' Home, Burkett.....	433	2,020	2,088	77 67	113 87	22 55	13 95
Soldiers' Home, Milford.....	147	416	.....	27 70	56 18	60	.....
State Hospital, Ingleside.....	1,160	865	4,051	.....	82 67	84 84	.....
State Hospital, Lincoln.....	758	702	8,191	146 90	86 61	56 00	41 65
State Hospital, Norfolk.....	521	618	6,186	66 15	67 83	12 30	.....
All institutions.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43 63	\$109 06

*Report for 7 months. ¹One year.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
1 Ainsworth.....	1,045	2	\$400 00	2,137	452	5,520	Mrs. Anna Toliver
2 Albion.....	1,584	3	00 00	2,700	850	8,636	Mrs. Jennie Gradon
3 Alliance.....	3,105	3	1,700 00	3,067	3,064	11,355	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
4 Alma.....	1,066	3	1,600 00	2,105	1,156	3,702	Mrs. Jennie Taylor
5 Arcadia ⁴	1,051	3	1,000 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
6 Arlington ¹	645	3	450 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
7 Ashland.....	1,379	2	600 00	2,425	1,022	7,187	Erma Laughlin
8 Auburn.....	2,729	1	600 00	1,624	650	6,431	Lillian Scofield
9 Aurora.....	2,630	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,200 00	4,567	2,425	15,157	Lillian Moore
10 Beatrice.....	9,356	2	3,000 00	14,368	2,455	30,482	Frances Morton
11 Blair.....	2,584	2	1,000 00	1,625	800	6,248	May McQuarrie
12 Bloomfield.....	1,264	3	600 00	1,166	638	6,665	Mrs. L. G. Crosby
13 Broken Bow.....	2,260	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,000 00	3,200	628	9,862	Emily Robertson
14 Burwell.....	915	3	550 00	972	894	3,000 ^a	Mrs. F. R. Hallock
15 Carroll.....	382	1	120 00	734	100	.....	Mrs. M. S. Linn
16 Cedar Rapids.....	576	2	250 00	627	275	3,000 ^a	Veva Melvin
17 Central City.....	2,428	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,050 00	3,224	686	9,086	Margaret Anderson
18 Chadron.....	2,687	3	1,200 00	2,724	900	15,406	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
19 Clay Center.....	1,065	3	600 00	700	.....	.....	Kathryn Epperson
20 College View.....	1,508	3	.....	2,500	2,142	3,857	Hattie B. Abbott
21 Columbus.....	5,014	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,000 00	4,524	1,638	18,479	Clara Howard
22 Crawford.....	1,323	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	320 00	1,304	582	3,318	Bonnie F. Smith
23 Crete.....	2,405	2	1,000 00	5,600	350	8,261	Harold Smith
24 David City.....	2,177	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	278 00	5,643	819	8,248	Lillian Simpkins
25 DeWitt.....	675	2	340 00	1,482	550	2,500 ^a	Mrs. Carrie Crane
26 Fairbury.....	5,294	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,200 00	6,507	1,749	31,414	Mary McQuaid
27 Fairfield.....	1,054	3	650 00	1,488	633	6,409	Bertha Crawford
28 Falls City.....	3,255	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,500 00	8,057	866	33,307	Mary Hutchings
29 Franklin.....	949	3	580 00	1,516	410	4,015	Mrs. G. W. Mitchell
30 Fremont.....	8,718	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,800 00	8,618	3,017	39,819	Grace Barber
31 Friend.....	1,261	3	800 00	870	560	2,343	M. Wynde Browne
32 Fullerton.....	1,638	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	650 00	2,757	929	16,902	Mrs. Maude Johnson

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volume	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
33 Geneva.....	1,741	3	1,090 00	3,250	880	7,334	Mrs. Isabel Bixby
34 Genoa.....	1,376	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	210 00	1,200	175	2,573	Mrs. C. H. Shields
35 Gibbon*.....	1,251	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	750 00	1,863	753	5,275	Mattie Pierce
36 Gothenburg ¹	1,730	3	950 00	1,500	580	...	S. Frances Botkin
37 Grand Island.....	10,326	1	2,500 00	6,497	1,663	26,192	Daisy Houck
38 Hartington.....	1,413	3	900 00	2,500	1,500	9,700	Mrs. B. Ready
39 Harvard.....	1,102	3	900 00	1,337	422	...	Mrs. A. J. Jenison
40 Hastings.....	9,338	...	2,804 00	7,154	5,412	28,908	Mrs. Ida Capps
41 Havrelock.....	2,680	...	1,375 00	3,360	1,608	12,437	Mrs. Susie Smith
42 Holdrege.....	3,030	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,697 00	3,903	1,146	11,901	Mrs. H. E. Bush
43 Hooper.....	741	2	300 00	1,252	626	4,090	Joel Warner
44 Humboldt.....	1,176	2	770 00	3,000	1,100	7,254	Mrs. J. K. Liggett
45 Kearney.....	6,202	2	2,334 00	10,906	4,520	56,290	Mrs. Pauline Frank
46 Laurel.....	514	3	450 00	1,050	500	3,600	R. L. Lathrop
47 Lincoln.....	43,972	1	12,292 00	38,507	11,296	212,328	Lulu Horne
48 Loup City*#1.....	1,640	3	1,900 00	...	...	...	...
49 Louisville.....	778	1	170 00	809	243	1,363	Edith Shryock
50 McCook.....	3,765	2	1,100 00	5,332	4,591	7,534	Grace Willets
51 Madison.....	1,708	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,000 00	2,629	1,575	12,200	Ethel Christian
52 Merna*.....	1,338	3	1,200 00	...	...	...	Mrs. H. K. Atkisson
53 Minden.....	1,559	2	600 00	3,248	1,140	8,615	Mrs. Helen Slusser
54 Nebraska City.....	5,488	2	1,200 00	5,450	727	11,160	Anne Stevenson
55 Neligh.....	1,566	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	900 00	3,611	767	7,299	Mrs. Carrie Jones
56 Norfolk.....	6,126	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	...	3,982	2,000	16,538	Helen Loddell
57 North Bend*.....	1,105	3	750 00	1,946	650	7,000	Laura Rount
58 North Platte.....	4,793	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,300 00	3,505	2,870	16,658	Loretta Murphy
59 Omaha.....	124,096	...	35,000 00	117,786	27,101	418,154	Edith Tobitt
60 O'Neill*.....	2,853	2	1,144 00	972	216	7,986	Mayme Coffey
61 Osceola.....	1,105	2	...	1,073	360	...	Mary McBeth
62 Pawnee City.....	1,610	3	1,090 00	2,779	1,267	12,365	Myrtle Parkinson
63 Pierce.....	1,200	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	600 00	1,211	200	2,354	Mrs. J. A. Andrew
64 Plainview.....	941	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	300 00	1,550	319	7,454	Mrs. P. H. Parker

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Concluded)

PLACE	Population	Mill Levy	Income	Volumes	Patrons	Circulation	Librarian
65 Plattsburgh	4,287	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	950.00	6,012	2,128	18,761	C. Olive Jones
66 Ponca	1,000	3	450.00	2,350	1,060	9,000 ^a	Mrs. Mary Lipe
67 Ravenna ¹	1,359	3	900.00	3,693	2,208	18,509	Eleanor Wheeler
68 Schuyler	2,152	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	900.00	3,663	1,514	450	Hattie Bowles
69 Scribner	891	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	363.00	4,011	1,112	8,279	M. Belle Schick
70 Seward	2,106	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,068.00	4,011	665	8,669	Mrs. H. A. Vose
71 Shelton*	1,462	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	873.00	3,661	90	.....	Mrs. Constance Corbett
72 Sidney	1,185	1	.....	1,600	435	1,500	Mrs. W. J. Lee
73 Spalding	637	1	100.00	650	235	.....	Mrs. J. Reinheimer
74 Spencer*	1,400	3	.....	482	512	.....	Elsie Strable
75 Stanton	1,342	3	840.00	2,147	250	5,185	Mrs. Rhoda Rice
76 Sterling	704	2	337.00	1,077	.....	.....	.....
77 Stromsburg ¹	1,355	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
74 Superior	2,106	2	829.00	5,950	1,250	24,447	Mrs. Lucy Conn
79 Sutton	1,702	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	650.00	2,317	895	7,460	Ida Rolland
80 Syracuse	842	1	200.00	1,750	310	1,945	Sara E. Dunn
81 Talmage	461	2	185.00	500	250	2,725	Mrs. C. Titzell
82 Tecumseh	1,748	2	800.00	2,255	400	.....	Mary Appleget
83 Tecumah ¹	1,524	3	1,000.00	1,200	428	.....	Mrs. Edna Jacobs
84 University Place*	3,200	3	2,000.00	.....	.....	.....	Katherine Wood
85 Wakefield	861	3	480.00	2,542	780	6,040	Mrs. Sina Hypse
86 Wayne	2,140	3	1,150.00	2,921	1,050	14,243	Mrs. Eva Davies
87 Winside	450	3	275.00	1,348	300	2,956	Mrs. Emma Dysart
88 Wisner	1,081	1	235.00	1,638	174	2,100	Jessie B. Ray
89 Wood River	796	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	277.00	4,020	450	5,310	Anna Horn
90 York	6,235	3	3,400.00	7,718	2,549	25,523	Olive B. Allen

*Township

^aToo recently organized to report

^bEstimated

Tenth
Biennial Report
Nebraska
Public
Library
Commission





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Tenth Biennial Report

of the

**Nebraska Public Library
Commission**

**Lincoln, Nebraska
November 30, 1920**

¹⁹²⁰
**THE BEACON PRESS
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Nebraska Public Library Commission

MALCOLM G. WYER, President

Librarian of the University of Nebraska

S. AVERY

Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

J. M. MATZEN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY

State Librarian

C. A. SOMMER, Lincoln

NELLIE WILLIAMS, Acting Secretary

Librarian for State Institutions

RUTH E. WARRICK

Librarian for Traveling Libraries

LORA E. BOLTON

Reference Librarian and Cataloger

LOUISE OTTEN, Clerk

*Answers to
10/11/32 ✓*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon. Samuel R. McKelvie, Governor of Nebraska:

Dear Sir: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1920.

Respectfully yours,

**MALCOLM G. WYER,
President.**



NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Secretary's Report

December 1, 1918, to November 30, 1920

Personnel

A number of changes in the personnel of the Commission took place during the past two years.

On December 23, 1918, Juliet M. Vore died following an attack of influenza. She had been in charge of the traveling libraries since October, 1914. The loss sustained by the staff and by her friends in general was keen.

In March, 1919, Lora E. Bolton, a graduate of Simmons' library course, accepted a position with us as reference librarian and cataloger, Helen G. Mathewson taking over the work of the traveling libraries.

In December, 1919, Charlotte Templeton, who had been Secretary of the Commission for thirteen years, resigned to accept a similar position in Georgia. It was with great regret on the part of all library people in Nebraska that Miss Templeton left a work which has developed so largely because of her labor and enthusiasm. Miss Mathewson left us at the same time to become Miss Templeton's assistant in her new field of work.

Nellie Williams, who had held the position of Librarian for State Institutions for four years, was asked to take temporary charge of the department. In May, 1920, she was made Acting Secretary for a period of one year. By the addition of Louise Otten, as stenographer, Miss Williams was able to continue her supervision of the institutional libraries.

In January, 1920, Ruth E. Warrick, also a graduate of Simmons, succeeded to the position made vacant by Miss Mathewson and is now Librarian for Traveling Libraries.

On January 9, 1920, Supt. W. H. Clemons, ex-officio member of the Commission, died and the vacancy was filled by J. M. Matzen, his successor as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Activities

The activities of the Commission divide themselves into three lines of service, field work, traveling library and special loans and institutional library supervision.

Field Work

As in former years, a considerable part of the Secretary's time has been given to field work. Her aim to visit every library during the biennium has not been attained. This is due to insufficient help, to quarantine and coal restrictions and to the necessity of a repetition of visits to some libraries in early stages of progress.

These visits are intended to create library spirit, to give initial aid in organization, to assist librarians in administrative and technical matters, to advise library boards and to give friendly encouragement. They have varied in length from a few hours to one or two weeks' time.

From December 1, 1918, to November 30, 1920, 107 public library visits have been made, a summary of which is here given:

Preliminary to organization.....	4
For organization	6
For reorganization	2
For cataloging.....	12
Follow-up visits	83
<hr/>	
	107
To institutional libraries.....	47

Traveling Libraries and Special Loans

Our means of service by traveling libraries and individual loans continue as formerly, except that the demand for books increasingly exceeds the supply. There is an ever-growing request for individual loans covering an interesting variety of subjects.

During the past two years we have served 86 counties with traveling libraries and have sent books to 798 towns. We have loaned 7,597 more books and filled 895 more requests during this biennium than the preceding one. September, 1920, was a record month in our history, the loans being 300 volumes more than in any previous month of any previous year.

In point of time and cost, the parcel post system is most satisfactory, helping us to reach people promptly and cheaply with reference material.

As aids to making the Commission known to people desiring its services, there are always a number of assisting agencies. We feel that our work is greatly strengthened by means of the allies to be found among county superintendents, teachers, preachers, club women, county agricultural agents, librarians, University Extension departments and American Legion Posts.

SUMMARY OF TRAVELING LIBRARY LOANS
 December 1, 1918, to November 30, 1920

Groups of Taxpayers	Public Libraries		School and College Libraries		Study Clubs		Individuals		American Legion Posts		Total		
	Re- quests	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests	Vols. Loaned	Re- quests	Vols. Loaned			
215	12,632	170	10,111	434	14,588	113	790	3,085	8,156	3	253	4,120	58,540

State Institution Libraries

The work in the institutional libraries has progressed in about the same manner as in former years. In some cases we may have taken no special steps in advance. In others we have made perceptible growth.

The most notable instance of progress is at the Ingleside Hospital for the Insane where a beautiful room 30 by 50 feet, centrally located, opened six hours a day, furnishes very good library facilities to patients and employees who are its constant patrons. This splendidly equipped and supervised library was made possible by the Superintendent, Dr. W. S. Fast, who felt the urgency of a better location for the library than it had had formerly. We point with special pride to this working out of a plan whereby an out-of-repair building was remodeled to make so attractive a library.

Our inmate population in the institutions is about 5,000. A conservative estimate places half of these among those mentally or physically unable to read. Add to this 2,500, 675 employees and it gives us a possible patronage of 3,175 in the 13 institutions where we are maintaining libraries. Our circulation of books for the biennium was 70,634. Instead of ranking with towns of equal population in circulation, we compete favorably with the largest towns in the state outside of Lincoln and Omaha. A record of periodical literature is kept only at the Penitentiary where 16,686 magazines were loaned during the biennium.

To show the attitude of those concerned, we herewith present tributes to the institutional libraries from the viewpoints of the Board of Commissioners, superintendents, librarians in charge and inmate readers.

L. C. Oberlies, Chairman Board of Commissioners of State Institutions: "I wish to express our appreciation of the good work you have done for us in helping us with our institutional libraries. They are a source of great satisfaction to this Board. They afford instruction and diversion to our patients and relieve much of the tedium of confinement. Their circulation is evidence of the keen appreciation with which they are held. I trust that you can supply us with more books during the coming biennium and we assure you we will give them housing and the best of care."

Dr. D. G. Griffiths, Superintendent Lincoln Hospital for the Insane: "I believe the library is very beneficial to quite a large number of patients in this hospital. The fact that we are not accomplishing more is due to our inadequate library room. We hope this will be remedied soon, as I thoroughly believe there should be a large, cheery room devoted especially to the library."

Librarian: "We have about 150 books circulated monthly among the patients besides the many magazines which they enjoy. On some

of the wards the older patients are read to every other day for an hour. This they look forward to with a great deal of pleasure."

Dr. W. S. Fast, Superintendent Ingleside Hospital for the Insane: "In my opinion a library connected with a state hospital is a most valuable adjunct to the institution. Hundreds of patients at Ingleside take advantage of their opportunity to secure books and periodicals. The date of beginning improvement in many mental and nervous cases corresponds to the date they first began reading. Employees are also benefited by having access to a well selected library and all the library activities are improved by having a full time librarian, she being on duty daily at regular library hours."

Librarian: "I believe the library affords more real pleasure to the patients than any other entertainment provided. Patients who come daily to read periodicals appreciate this privilege much."

A patient representing the ladies of her ward, without suggestion from any one, writes: "We wish to express our appreciation of the Ingleside library. We feel that we have an especially good selection of books and that they are distributed cheerfully. We are thankful for the cheerful service of our librarian."

Another patient says: "For myself the library has been a great benefit. I have read most of the fiction and think it would be a good thing if books could be exchanged with other libraries. The other patients also get enjoyment from them. Instructive books are also read on the wards."

Dr. L. T. Sidwell, Superintendent Tuberculous Hospital: "Great stress should be laid on furnishing patients in an institution of this kind all the reading matter they can reasonably use. All of us appreciate very much what the Library Commission is doing for us and I trust support will be given this excellent work."

Patient: "The library in this institution is appreciated very much. We have a varied selection of books, which most of the patients have found suitable to their tastes. Books are in constant circulation, being exchanged daily, by one of our patients who is in charge. Occasionally we get new books and we usually get a variety so that everyone is pleased."

Dr. B. A. Finkle, Superintendent Orthopedic Hospital: "We wish to express our appreciation for the work which the library is doing in this hospital. Our room is nicely equipped and considerable reading is done by both employees and patients. To the casual visitor, it may seem that the library is not used as much as it might be, but many patients are confined to their beds who without the books and periodicals would pass many lonesome hours."

Commandant J. O. Moore, Soldiers' Home, Milford: "I am a strong
(9)

advocate of the library and am proud of our little library. My observation is that the 'old comrades' and their wives and employees make good use of it."

Librarian: "I think the library is a great acquisition to this Home. There is a growing interest in the library and all seem to enjoy this great privilege."

A comrade says: "Have been at Milford Home for a year and have enjoyed myself mostly by getting books from the library. Hope it may continue to grow better and more of it."

Dr. S. J. Stewart, Superintendent Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth: "We consider the library one of the greatest assets to the inmates of this institution. We appreciate very much the interest manifested in selecting our books."

Librarian: "About sixty books are issued each week and are read by the children on the wards. The older girls who do not go to school show a marked interest in the girls' stories. Since the boys invariably ask for histories and biographies their books are more than a pleasure. The smaller children like to hear stories read. The library is well supplied with books best adapted to the class of children using them."

Supt. F. W. Booth, School for the Deaf: "The service rendered our school by the Nebraska Public Library Commission is, I feel, of inestimable value. In the nature of the case our deaf children, in order to get the most out of life, must read, and they must, here at school acquire not only the ability to read, but also the habit of reading, and both are made the easier to give through the use of the abundant supply of well bound and printed and beautifully illustrated books that come to us from your selection."

Librarian: "It is with great interest that I watch the readers of our library books who come under my observation. I continually note their eagerness to read and make a part of themselves, the good books which our library affords them. The books are especially adapted to the needs of children, and are constantly in use. The number of readers is ever on the increase, which is, I think, a proof of their appreciation."

One of the children: "There is good and fine language in books and I want them to help me have fine language. That is why I want to read. I want to read a great deal like Benjamin Franklin did. My father and mother want me to be a very smart man. That is why I read the books every day."

Librarian, one of the girls, Industrial Home for Women: "I have been greatly impressed by the part played by our little library in the lives of our girls. There is hardly a need it does not meet and their patronage certainly voices their appreciation. If they require entertainment, our 800 volumes of fiction and poetry supply the best quality; if

instruction in household arts, elementary nursing and care of children or art of entertaining, they are sure to find something to fit the occasion. Even their higher needs are met by ethical works of Marden, Myers and others."

R. V. Clark, Superintendent Boys' Industrial School: "The library in our school has been kept in good shape. Old books have been rebound, practical volumes provided and the boys wonderfully helped by the excellent advantages furnished by the library supervised as it is by state control."

Librarian: "The readers, as they come under my observation, appreciate the opportunities afforded by the library. Especially do the boys like the various magazines that are sent to the school."

One of the boys: "No boy lives to himself. All delight in companionship. Good books are good companions."

W. T. Fenton, Warden Penitentiary: "I find that our library meets our requirements fully. Thorough investigation convinces me that it has a decided influence for good. Last month over 1,400 books were asked for and received, 30 per cent of which were standard works."

Librarian: "I believe the library is one of the most potent factors in the reformation of the inmates. As you know from our monthly records, there is a very good percentage of standard reading done. Our fiction is good wholesome reading which all the men appreciate."

One of the men says: "During the last eleven years I have read a great many books from the prison library. I don't know of a single book that has not helped me in some way and I know this reading has helped all the men to a considerable extent."

Publicity

For a number of years it has been the policy of the Commission to advertise by means of an exhibit at the State Fair. In the fall of 1918 this was discontinued. In its stead county and district fair advertising was substituted. Miss Williams visited fairs in Franklin, Nuckolls and Saunders counties and a district fair in Frontier county. This more direct touch with the people, acquainting them with our aims and means of service, brought definite results.

Another method of publicity has been the loaning of exhibits. Besides filling requests of librarians over the state, we sent a collection of posters to A. L. A. headquarters in New York to be used in their publicity campaign. An exhibit was used in connection with a talk at the A. L. A. conference in Colorado Springs and at our state meeting in Lincoln.

In 1919, a personal letter sent to each county superintendent brought considerable response from rural teachers. Traveling libraries were on exhibit at several teachers' institutes. We also sent an exhibit of books

on rural sociology to the State Conference of the Methodist church at University Place.

A letter explaining the method of obtaining books from the Commission was inserted in our widely-read Nebraska Farmer. It brought prompt and overwhelming returns from Nebraska and a few requests from adjoining states.

During the past year, the Secretary attended the A. L. A. conference in Colorado Springs, the State Library meeting, State Federation of Women's Clubs, State Teachers' Association and Conference of Superintendents of State Institutions, at all of which she had some part on the program. She has also given talks at a Girls' Vocational Conference, the School for Rural Pastors, to a University History of Education class and the Wesleyan Educational Council. She talked on county libraries and met library boards and town councils in several places. Miss Warrick also appeared on the state library program in October, 1920, on the subject of the Library Commission.

Needs

The Commission has a primary and a secondary need at the present time. The latter is for an increase in our book supply to meet the demands upon us to furnish traveling libraries and reference material to organizations and individuals who legitimately look to us for help.

Primarily, we need an increase in the number on our office force. This is, in part, that we may effectively take care of the volume of business by serving the people promptly. In particular, we need an addition to the staff that the work over the state may be given more attention. The request to the legislature for a Field Agent arises from the knowledge that not enough time is spent in creating enthusiasm for more and better libraries in Nebraska.

Public Libraries

The past biennium has not been a favorable one for the establishment or growth of public libraries. The building situation, the general financial condition, difficulty to secure librarians and a lessening in hours of service, have affected the entire field of library activity.

There has been a cessation of library building in the state. The Carnegie Corporation discontinued its gifts prior to the war and has not as yet resumed its donations. As several places are in a state of progress needing buildings, this is a somewhat serious handicap. Scottsbluff alone has a building under consideration, \$14,000 having been promised them by the Carnegie Corporation before the date of restriction. No gifts of individuals for library buildings have been reported.

Two years ago we had 108 tax sustained libraries in Nebraska. During the biennium, Arnold, Bayard, Chappell, Gering, Kimball, Nelson, Oakland and Wausa have been added to the list making the present

number 116. Of these, Arnold and Wausa are township libraries. Bayard and Chappell seem specially worthy of banners. After only a year of organization, under the auspices of the Woman's Club, Bayard was taxed five mills for the support of its library. Funds not being available until May, 1921, Chappell raised \$1,300 by subscription and the library is in a very encouraging state of progress. They are agitating the question of county support.

Two of our libraries suffered recent loss by fire, Weeping Water only partial, well covered by insurance, and Ansley an almost complete loss of building and contents.

A few library boards are beginning to realize the seriousness of their meager maintenance and the inadequate salaries paid librarians. In most places the situation is critical because the amount of the levy is insufficient. Even in case of levying the five mill limit of the law, the funds furnish little hope of growth, if the unit is to be the municipality. Bayard, Cozad, Fairfield, Guido Rock and Plainview alone report a five mill tax. Excepting these towns, the average support is 2.4 mills.

The combined reported income by tax of our 116 libraries is \$210,726, Lincoln and Omaha furnishing \$78,261 of this amount. This leaves \$132,465 to provide free library facilities for our population of 1,295,502. \$40,839 dollars is the total amount spent for the purchase of books of which there are 133,129 volumes in the public libraries of the state. Is it much wonder that an unfortunately large per cent of the people in Nebraska have no library service except that furnished by state supported libraries?

We have 35 counties in the state without libraries in their county seat towns.

The hope of the future in library development lies in a materially increased financial support. We feel that this can be done only by enlarging the unit of organization from the municipality and township to the county. There has been some agitation along this line in the counties of Deuel, Colfax, Kearney, Nemaha and York but at present no county in Nebraska has put itself in such line of progress.

The county library law in Nebraska authorizes the establishment of such a library by vote of the people at a general election. The following is the text of the law:

3792. Section 16. ESTABLISHMENT—TAXES.—The city council of any city, the board of trustees of any incorporated village, the county board of any county, and the electors of any township at their annual town meeting, shall have the power to establish a public library free for the use of the inhabitants of such city, village, county or township, or to contract for the use of a public library already established, and may levy a tax of not more than 5 mills on the dollar annually to be levied

and collected in like manner as other taxes in such city, village, county or township, and to be known as the library fund: Provided, when the county board makes a levy for a county library, it shall omit from the levy of the library tax all property within the limits of any city, village or township in such county which already maintains a library by public tax: Provided further, before establishing such county library, or levying such tax, the county board shall submit the question to the voters of the county, and a majority of the voters voting thereon shall have authorized the establishment of such county library and the levying of the tax. Such question shall be submitted at a general election only, and when so submitted and carried, it is hereby made the duty of the county board to include the county library in its next succeeding estimate and levy.

The legislature of 1918-1919 made two changes in the state library law, changing the maximum rate of levy from 3 mills to 5, and reducing library boards from 9 to 5 members.

Interest always centers about our association libraries. These are usually mothered by the Women's Clubs until sufficient library spirit is created for them to be fathered by the towns. Libraries thus fostered are in the following towns: Adams, Alexandria, Beaver Crossing, Bridgeport, Brock, Dorchester, Elmwood, Eustis, Hemingford, Herman, Keystone, Minatare, Mitchell, Murray, Oak, Ogallala, Oxford, Page, Palmyra, Polk, Potter, St. Paul, Salem, Shubert, Valley, Valparaiso and Waterloo.

Correspondence shows a library interest at Arapahoe, Deshler, Grant, Humphrey, Inavale, Mason City, Monroe, Nora, Oshkosh, Pilger, South Sioux City, Springfield and Trenton.

Library War Service

As Nebraska's quota of Library War Service books, the Commission has received 3,162 volumes, consisting of many duplicate titles. They included books on Agriculture, Banking, Business, Economics, History, Journalism and Mechanics.

Of these we have added 564 volumes to our own collection for use in reference work. Upon request, we have distributed as gifts to American Legion Posts, Institutional and Public Libraries. An additional shipment not yet arrived will be similarly apportioned.

Many of these books were bought by the American Library Association and they will be a valuable acquisition not only to the Commission but will greatly aid the small libraries over the state.

Nebraska Library Association

The Nebraska Library Association met in Omaha for its annual conference in 1919. We had with us Mr. Chalmers Hadley, at that time President of the American Library Association, and Miss May Massee, editor of the Booklist.

Preceding this meeting, Miss Templeton conducted a three days' library institute for the new and inexperienced librarians. There were 22 librarians in attendance. They all remained for the Association meeting and the week proved a very profitable one.

In October, 1920, the annual meeting was held in Lincoln with Mr. William J. Hamilton, Secretary of the Indiana Library Commission, as the principal speaker. In line with the present trend of thought; he talked on the County Library as the best means of library extension.

Nebraska was unusually fortunate in having the American Library Association hold its 1920 conference in Colorado. Twenty-four of our librarians attended the Colorado Springs meeting. This furnished an interesting feature of the state program, in October, several people giving "Impressions and benefits from attending A. L. A."



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes accessioned to December 1, 1918.....	22,333
Volumes in library December 1, 1918.....	19,685
Volumes added from December 1, 1918, to November 30, 1920.....	3,855
	<u>23,540</u>
Volumes withdrawn to December 1, 1918.....	2,648
Volumes withdrawn from December 1, 1918, to November 30, 1920—	
Foreign language, by legislative action transferred to University library	1,562
Destroyed	669
	<u>2,231</u>
Volumes accessioned to November 30, 1920.....	26,188
Volumes in library November 30, 1920.....	21,309

EXPENDITURES DECEMBER 1, 1918, TO NOVEMBER 30, 1920

	From Appropriation 1917-1919	From Appropriation 1919-1921
Books	\$ 13.60	\$ 5,315.26
Office expense	354.46	1,514.67
Binding	191.00	870.27
Printing	83.04	10.80
Travel	96.95	555.76
Extra help	153.13	403.43
Institution libraries	532.86	3,546.07
Secretary	500.00	2,500.00
Librarian	300.00	1,666.65
Assistant librarian	300.00	1,666.65
Stenographer	145.83	1,500.00
	<u>\$ 2,670.87</u>	<u>\$19,549.56</u>
		<u>2,670.87</u>
Total		<u>\$22,220.43</u>
Appropriation 1919-1921		\$23,000.00
Balance		3,450.44
Expended April 1, 1919, to November 30, 1920.....		19,549.65

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Vols.	Director
State Library.....	Lincoln	80,000	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Commission....	Lincoln	21,309	Nellie Williams
Legislative Ref. Bureau.....	Lincoln	11,000*	Edna D. Bullock
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln	55,000	Mrs. C. S. Paine

*Chiefly pamphlets and clippings.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Vols.	Librarian
Cotner College.....	Bethany	6,609	Mrs. Bessie Johnson
Creighton University.....	Omaha	51,500	W. T. Kinsella
Doane College.....	Crete	14,585	Nora Hjelm
Franklin Academy.....	Franklin	5,800	R. Kretzinger
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island	9,000	Gertrude M. Suess
Hastings College.....	Hastings	7,500	Flora Fisher
Lincoln High School.....	Lincoln	2,000	Jessie J. Glass
Luther College.....	Wahoo	3,500	Erik Wohlstrom
Nebraska Wesleyan.....	Uni. Place.....	11,022	Ethol M. Langdon
Omaha Central High School.....	Omaha	7,332	Zora Shields
Omaha Com'l High School.....	Omaha	3,000	May Ingles
Omaha South High School.....	Omaha	2,897	Clare Mackin
State Normal School.....	Chadron	5,965	Lillie Cliley
State Normal School.....	Kearney	17,360	Anna V. Jennings
State Normal School.....	Peru	30,000	Elva E. Rulon
State Normal School.....	Wayne	8,000	Jessie Jenks
Union College.....	College View	7,350	Mertie Wheeler
University of Nebraska.....	Lincoln	148,000	Malcolm G. Wyer
York College.....	York	3,500	Joyce Cushman

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

INSTITUTION	Place	Population (exclusive of employees)	Volumes in Library	Circulation for Biennium	Volumes Added During Biennium	EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIVM			
						Books	Periodicals	Binding	Supplies and Travel
Home for Feeble-Minded.....	Beatrice	640	869	2,799*	67	\$102.85	\$ 93.39	\$ 7.15	.....
Soldiers' Home	Burkett	363	1,368	3,970	83	78.61	109.22	23.10	.....
Girls' Industrial School.....	Geneva	125	858	1,997	95	148.99	78.55	23.10	.....
State Hospital for Insane.....	Inglewood	1,138	1,293	9,079	288	421.52	.....	109.40	.....
Boys' Industrial School.....	Kearney	220	972	10,659	114	187.68	171.50	54.45	.....
Hospital for Tuberculous.....	Kearney	85	501	4,714	180	164.15	85.11	.....	.....
State Hospital for Insane.....	Lincoln	899	978	2,653	131	236.31	205.46	26.40	.....
Orthopedic Hospital	Lincoln	77	1,368	589	230	123.27	109.23	40.15	.....
Penitentiary	Lincoln	503	2,905	24,707*	174	152.71	205.98	.....	.....
Industrial Home for Women.....	Milford	75	475	842	47	50.24	59.81	.....	.....
Soldiers' Home for Insane.....	Milford	151	581	923	50	66.55	68.48	6.05	.....
State Hospital for Insane.....	Norfolk	672	904	3,064	138	222.53	114.83	49.50	.....
School for the Deaf.....	Omaha	170	1,455	4,638*	119	135.78	86.89	24.75	.....
All Institutions .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$285.24

*Report covering 16 months.

#Exclusive of periodical literature.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Popu- lation	Mill Levy	Income	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Patrons	Circu- lation	Librarian
				Salaries	Books	Other				
1 Ainsworth	1,540	2	\$ 600	\$ 200	\$ 239	\$ 161	3,117	916	10,067	Mrs. Anna Tolliver
2 Albion	1,554	2	1,200	420	260	630	4,500	750	12,450	Mrs. Jennie Graddon
3 Alliance	4,591	3	2,300	900	95	1,305	5,800	516	13,935	Mrs. Blanche Prettyman
4 Alma	1,066	3	600	240	36	324	2,537	937	3,279	Mrs. Jennie Taylor
5 Ansley*	700	3	705	125	208	372	800	300	9,000	Mrs. H. L. Fowler
6 Arcadia*	800	3	1,115	360	78	682	1,918	700	6,260	Mrs. P. I. Cromwell
7 Arlington	650	3	646	72	275	299	1,238	540	1,330	Mrs. A. E. Bashford
8 Arnold*	1,800	1	600	92	170	338	500	350	1,904	Laura C. Peterson
9 Ashland	1,379	2.5	650	249	88	313	.....	.....	.....	Dorothea Scott
10 Auburn	3,700	2	1,100	390	300	410	4,274	1,860	8,579	Lillian Sconfield
11 Aurora	2,630	2.5	1,800	600	310	890	5,048	3,139	14,876	Lillian Moore
12 Bayard	2,400	5	1,900	300	308	1,292	500	60	.....	Mrs. Viola Shepherd
13 Beatrice	9,987	2.9	5,400	1,465	1,280	2,625	12,941	3,010	37,995	Mrs. C. A. Anderson
14 Blair	2,554	3	1,825	615	315	895	3,442	1,404	13,913	May McQuarrie
15 Bloomfield	1,660	3	1,300	540	177	583	1,399	1,238	6,221	Mrs. Mae Durbin
16 Broken Bow	2,300	2.5	1,008	540	.....	468	3,600	2,103	108,673	Emily Robertson
17 Burwell*	915	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ruth L. Borden
18 Carroll	382	1	187	50	91	46	1,006	131	2,405	Mrs. M. S. Linn
19 Cedar Rapids	800	2	260	104	160	6	2,156	375	9,143	Mrs. E. L. Melvin
20 Central City	3,500	2	1,000	480	230	290	4,361	1,243	9,190	Margaret Anderson
21 Chadron	4,400	3	1,800	627	.712	461	4,954	2,000	19,951	Mrs. Elizabeth Smith
22 Chappell*	1,400	.....	1,300	360	.....	940	825	130	.....	Herbert C. Gans
23 Clarks*	1,800	1.5	1,500	600	200	700	1,240	470	5,298	Mrs. Fern A. Beardsley

*Township.

**Too recently organized to report.

*Failed to report.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Popu- lation	Mill Levy	Income	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Patrons	Circu- lation	Librarian
				Salaries	Books	Other				
24 Clay Center ^a	1,065	...	\$ 900	196	\$ 251	\$ 453	3,242	3,130	3,130	Bertha F. Jessup
25 College View	2,250	3	2,786	770	2,016	6,507	2,541	2,541	2,541	Anna Jenkins
26 Columbus	5,014	2.17	5	60	500	150	500	500	500	Rose Riddell
27 Cozad ^a	1,500	5	449	169	191	89	1,868	594	6,008	Edith I. Allen
28 Crawford	1,500	1	928	360	482	86	1,419	716	6,689	Mrs. C. J. Hornsby
29 Creighton	1,600	1	1,100	420	253	427	5,725	5,968	5,968	Winnie Jane Mann
30 Crete	2,404	2	1,400	540	442	418	5,000	511	13,159	Mrs. C. F. Baker
31 David City	2,500	2.75	625	2.5	1,100	675	975	550	550	Lillian Simpkins
32 DeWitt ^a	5,294	3	2,750	250	33	717	1,797	4,014	4,014	Amy Plucknett
33 Fairbury	1,054	5	1,000	900	420	1,320	9,348	992	37,098	Mary C. McQuaid
34 Fairfield	3,255	2.5	2,300	850	148	340	3,200	1,200	1,200	Virginia Johnson
35 Falls City	949	4	1,200	703	2,843	10,471	4,000	1,400	1,400	Mary Hutchings
36 Fremont	10,000	1.25	4,746	300	201	639	1,256	1,016	1,016	Mrs. Mary Humphrey
37 Fremont	1,261	3	1,200	405	543	82	4,415	1,652	12,628	Sara E. Gosselink
38 Friend	1,638	...	1,400	600	209	600	3,900	900	900	Rotha Doner
39 Fullerton	1,742	3	220	84	110	26	1,600	400	400	Mrs. Nettie Johnson
40 Geneva	1,376	...	1,000	395	325	665	2,572	600	600	Mrs. Isabel Bixby
41 Genoa	2,000	1	2,000	840	120	1,040	2,134	1,080	1,080	Mrs. C. H. Shields
42 Gering ^a	900	1.5	2,000	3,566	1,282	423	1,861	7,391	7,391	Mrs. Ida Ripley
43 Gibbon*	1,800	3	2,000	724	300	150	2,689	27,190	27,190	Mrs. C. E. Bartlett
44 Gothenburg	13,960	1	3,566	724	300	274	1,460	414	414	S. Frances Botkin
45 Grand Island	617	5	724	150	274	1,460	6,775	Katherine Guy	Katherine Guy	

*Township.

^aToo recently organized to report.

^bFailed to report.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Popu- lation	Mill Levy	Income	EXPENDITURES			Volume	Patrons	Circu- lation	Librarian
				Salaries	Books	Other				
47 Hartington	1,800	... 3	\$1,700	\$ 360	\$ 415	2,500	1,036	.....	Kate S. Bryant
48 Harvard	1,102	1.25	1,573	860	162	1,061	2,125	1,111	Mrs. A. J. Jenison	
49 Hastings	10,252	1.25	2,479	1,242	261	986	9,526	4,000	Mrs. Ida E. Caps	
50 Havelock	6,600	...	2,200	900	507	793	5,016	2,352	Mrs. Susie G. Smith	
51 Hebron ^a	1,778	1	1,681	600	639	492	5,000	1,227	Mrs. Roy Hensel	
52 Holdrege	3,500	2	1,014	580	120	398	62	2,316	Mrs. Catherine Wills	
53 Hooper	1,200	1.5	889	360	175	354	3,000	1,036	Joel Warner	
54 Humboldt	8,200	1.6	2,354	1,080	639	635	3,500	1,000	Mrs. J. K. Liggett	
55 Kearney	1,850	1	1,000	300	400	300	5,500	6,000	Mrs. Mary E. O'Brian	
56 Kimball	514	...	1,800	720	200	880	1,672	493	Wayne I. Nelson	
57 Laurel ^b	3,000	...	22,068	7,831	4,840	9,397	48,126	14,158	Roy L. Lothrop	
58 Lexington	54,948	1.2	2,340	65	...	275	968	163	Mary Kelley	
59 Lincoln	778	2	1,500	960	463	77	2,000	217,111	Lulu Horne	
60 Louisville	1,640	2.5	1,602	680	189	833	6,897	4,500	Edith F. Shryock	
61 Loup City ^c	4,303	2	1,465	574	382	569	3,662	1,186	Frances Hansel	
62 McCook	2,000	...	1,200	365	134	701	1,775	519	Gretchen Kramer	
63 Madison	459	3	700	246	94	3,919	1,190	7,608	Mrs. H. K. Atkisson	
64 Merna ^c	1,559	2	505	120	243	142	1,418	6,000	Mrs. Helen Slusser	
65 Minden	750	3	1,500	600	300	600	6,500	776	Mrs. S. J. Medlin	
66 Morrill	6,700	1.5	1,107	400	150	557	3,948	1,097	Anne Stevenson	
67 Nebraska City-	2,000	2.5	1,296	53	87	156	1,730	442	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones	
68 Neligh	1,000	1	296	...	...	...	...	3,000	Alice Ruddell

^aTownship.

^bToo recently organized to report.
^cFailed to report.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Popu- lation	Mill Levy	Income	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Patrons	Circu- lation	Librarian
				Salaries	Books	Other				
70 Norfolk	9,000	2.6	\$2,000	\$ 377	271	\$	6,375	6,000	21,169	Laura Durland
71 North Bend*	1,100	4	1,161	377	513	2,383	650	7,826	Laura Roump	
72 North Platte	10,600	2.5	2,530	1,038	776	716	5,090	.....	Loretta Murphy	
73 Oakland ¹	1,500	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Ethel Hanson	
74 Omaha	190,000	....	56,193	3,549	10,558	42,086	147,749	30,792	428,577	Edith Tobitt
75 O'Neill*	2,089	1	1,982	310	153	1,519	2,733	1,587	6,256	Mary McLaughlin
76 Orleans*	1,100	3	1,300	720	100	480	2,018	675	5,722	Mrs. Selma Haggard
77 Osceola ²	1,105	....	116	13	.....	103	.....	.....	.....	Mrs. C. G. Timm
78 Pawnee City	1,610	4	1,400	560	105	735	4,182	1,850	13,000	Mrs. Flora Fullerton
79 Fender	1,000	....	200	26	100	74	2,000	100	.....	Mrs. H. J. Arnhold
80 Pierce	1,200	3	760	232	193	335	2,468	427	3,905	Mrs. J. A. Andrew
81 Plainview	1,200	5	650	240	175	235	1,897	750	10,080	Mrs. P. H. Parker
82 Plattsburgh	4,900	2.3	1,500	703	560	237	8,315	3,655	17,180	C. Olive Jones
83 Ponca	1,100	3	450	96	227	127	3,500	1,300	7,102	Mrs. Mary Lipe
84 Randolph	1,600	3	600	119	131	350	1,500	287	7,200	Mrs. S. Buchanan
85 Ravenna	1,700	3	961	450	333	178	2,449	635	8,587	Nelle V. Clark
86 Red Cloud	1,500	4	1,100	660	150	290	3,000	1,051	16,371	Yola Schwartz
87 Schuyler	3,000	3	1,865	460	377	1,028	2,122	1,971	15,330	Myrtle MacSween
88 Scottsbluff	6,912	1.5	2,009	480	283	1,237	4,245	1,483	19,599	Eleanor M. Wheeler
89 Scribner	1,021	....	511	300	21	190	2,000	435	2,400	Edna D. B. Ehlers
90 Seward	3,000	2	1,000	460	183	357	4,500	1,150	10,962	M. Belle Schlick
91 Shelton*	1,480	2	1,366	749	258	359	4,462	968	8,914	Mrs. C. S. Burkard
92 Sidney	3,000	3	2,604	456	174	1,974	2,232	995	5,236	Mrs. Constance Corbett

*Township.

¹Too recently organized to report.
²Failed to report.

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Popu- lation	Mill Levy	Income	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Patrons	Circu- lation	Librarian
				Salaries	Books	Other				
93 Silver Creek*	379	1	\$ 500	\$ 180	\$ 151	\$ 169	509	408	1,716	Mrs. W. D. Smith
94 Spalding*	637	...	1,627	255	300	1,072	2,353	250	11,316	Mrs. W. J. Lee
95 Spencer*	900	3	2,002	520	236	1,246	3,487	1,326	10,320	Mrs. Frances Hollstein
96 Stanton	1,485	4	640	240	35	865	1,671	282	6,333	Mrs. J. D. Elmore
97 Sterling	700	3	1,000	420	400	180	1,620	620	7,785	Mary Hollenback Marie Shaw
98 Stromsburg	1,400	3	1,447	550	201	696	7,600	1,800	54,926	Mrs. Lucy Conn
99 Superior	2,106	3	850	480	65	305	2,827	1,020	.....	Sybil B. Jarrett
100 Sutton	1,700	2.5	450	62	127	271	2,138	380	2,501	Louise Van Horne
101 Syracuse	1,000	1.5	297	86	78	133	600	313	2,741	Mrs. Allie Wood
102 Table Rock	814	3	236	90	53	93	1,170	263	4,578	Sophia Mohler
103 Talmage	500	2	696	300	176	220	3,554	450	8,324	Mary E. Appleset
104 Tecumseh	2,000	3	1,397	480	253	664	2,215	1,253	8,595	Marguerite Nesbit
105 Tekamah	1,800	3	3,000	920	836	1,244	6,056	1,088	23,327	Katherine Wood
106 Uni. Place	4,000	4	943	288	343	362	3,541	1,243	6,729	Ruth Collins
107 Wakefield	1,200	3	500	300	.....	200	900	178	.....	Alice Banks
108 Wausa*	800	1	1,478	406	476	596	3,975	1,624	11,216	Mrs. E. S. Blair
109 Wayne	2,140	3	1,255	300	200	755	2,718	432	7,800	Grace Countryman
110 Weeping Water	1,196	2	1,563	346	184	1,038	1,468	987	8,468	Minnie Frahm
111 West Point	1,800	3	350	120	100	1,130	1,700	300	2,556	Mrs. Emma Dysart
112 Winside	485	3	235	120	.....	115	1,563	216	.....	Jessie Kay
113 Wisner	1,200	1	468	170	.....	98	200	2,795	486	Anna B. Horn
114 Wood River	1,000	2	2,158	420	433	1,305	1,621	1,010	10,362	Gladys Pirie
115 Wymore	2,600	2.5	6,473	1,059	621	4,793	10,412	3,700	18,316	Ada Haggard
116 York	6,235	3

*Township.

*Too recently organized to report.
'Failed to report.



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Eleventh
Biennial Report
Nebraska
Public
Library
Commission





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Eleventh Biennial Report

of the

Nebraska Public Library

Commission

Lincoln, Nebraska
November 30, 1922

¹⁹²²
BURR PUBLISHING COMPANY
Aurora, Nebraska

Nebraska Public Library Commission

MALCOLM G. WYER, President

Librarian of the University of Nebraska

S. AVERY

Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

J. M. MATZEN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY

State Librarian

MRS. CHARLES H. DIETRICH, Hastings

NELLIE WILLIAMS, Secretary

and

Librarian for State Institutions

MARGUERITE NESBIT

Reference Librarian and Cataloger

WINNIE JANE MANN

Librarian for Traveling Libraries

GRACE HOUTS, Clerk

*Nebraska Public Library Commission
1/1/32*

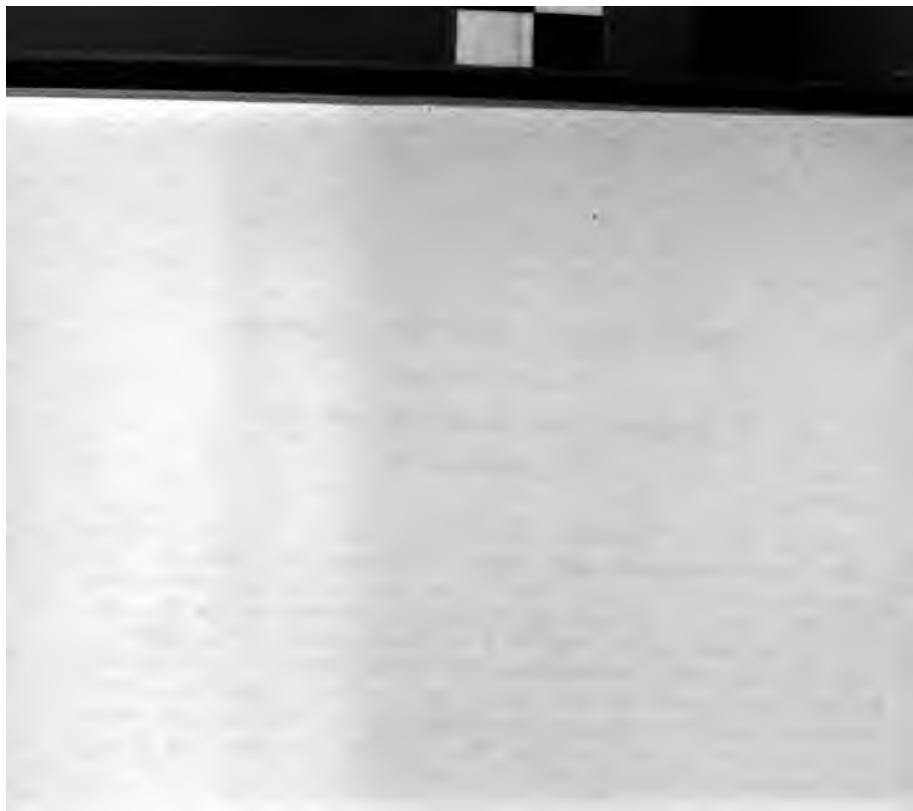
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

Hon. Samuel R. McKelvie, Governor of Nebraska:

Dear Sir: Complying with the requirement of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1922.

Respectfully yours,

**MALCOLM G. WYER,
President.**



NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Secretary's Report

December 1, 1920, to November 30, 1922

THE COMMISSION

Personnel

During the past biennium there have been changes in the personnel of the Commission and its staff. Mr. C. A. Sommer, of Lincoln, who was appointed in May, 1916, for a term of five years, resigned in November, 1920. Mr. Sommer was actively interested in the work of the Commission, giving generously of his time in advising with the secretary on matters pertaining to the usefulness of the department. On December 30, 1920, Governor McKelvie appointed Mrs. Charles H. Dietrich of Hastings for a term of five years. Mrs. Dietrich is the first woman to serve as a member of the Commission. We feel that the choice was a fortunate one.

It seems fitting to pay tribute here to Mr. F. L. Haller of Omaha who died September 26, 1922. This may best be done by quoting from the minutes of the June, 1916, Commission meeting. "Mr. F. L. Haller retires at this time from membership in the Nebraska Library Commission, after a continuous service since its organization in 1901, during the last ten years of which he was President. His devotion to the library interests of Nebraska has been shown by his cooperation in helping to make possible the establishment of the Nebraska Public Library Commission, by his interest in developing the work and by his loyal support of its plans."

Nellie Williams, who had been serving in the capacity of acting secretary for eighteen months, was elected executive secretary of the Commission in May, 1921. Upon the resignation of Lora E. Bolton in January, 1921, Ruth E. Warrick, then librarian for traveling libraries, became reference librarian and Marguerite Nesbit of the public library of Tekamah, Nebraska, took charge of the traveling libraries. Due to her approaching marriage, Miss Warrick left the Commission in March, 1922, and Miss Nesbit succeeded to the position of reference librarian. In August, 1922, Winnie Jane Mann of the public library of Creighton, Nebraska, became librarian for traveling libraries. Louise Otten, who had served as clerk since January, 1920, removed to California in May, 1922, and Grace Houts of Omaha became clerk.

Location

From its beginning in 1901 until June, 1921, the offices of the Commission were located in the Capitol building. Due to the need of more

space for our own and other state departments, a change was necessary. Mr. Wyer, President of the Commission, secured quarters for us on the University campus. We are now located in the Social Science building except for the office which is in University Hall.

Activities:

The Commission has followed the same general lines of work as in former years. Its purpose is to stimulate library development and to provide books for individuals and communities that are without library facilities. Its third activity is building and supervising libraries in the state institutions.

Field Work

While the secretary desires to answer all calls for help and aims to visit all public libraries within a reasonable period of time, it is becoming more and more impossible to cover the field. Because we feel that a closer contact between the libraries and the Commission should exist, it is the policy of the secretary to send out circular letters during the coming year. She will appreciate it if these letters are regarded somewhat in the nature of a visit and their contents as carefully considered as her suggestions have been in personal interviews. By thus doing some visiting by proxy, the pending and urgent demands can better be met.

During the biennium the secretary has made 92 library visits, forty-five of which were to libraries that she had not previously visited. This service is given without charge. The visits are classified as follows:

Preliminary to organization	3
Organization	12
Cataloging	4
Special call of board or librarian	22
Follow-up visits	51
	—
Total	92

The secretary has made a few out-of-state visits in the interest of the Commission. She attended the library section of the National Education Association in Des Moines in July, 1921, and also visited the Iowa Library Commission offices. From Des Moines she went to Iowa City to the summer school library conference to fill an appointment upon the program. She attended the Midwinter meeting of the American Library Association in Chicago in December, 1921. She also took part upon the program of the Regional A. L. A. meeting held in St. Joseph, Missouri, in October, 1922.

Loans

Statistics are not a satisfying medium of expression. Mere figures omit the human element in our relationship with a public which is served

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1910-1912		1912-1914		1914-1916		1916-1918		1918-1920		1920-1922	
Requests Filled	Volumes Loaned										
1,306	30,225	1,962	40,590	3,342	51,372	3,125	50,943	4,020	58,540	6,213	77,861

SUMMARY OF LOANS

December 1, 1920 to November 30, 1922

Groups of Taxpayers	Public Libraries		School and College Libraries		Study Clubs		Other Organisations		Individuals		Total		
	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned	Re-quests Filled	Vols. Loaned			
258	16,010	176	12,788	560	31,999.	1,602	4,712	48	8,260	3,569	9,142	6,213	77,861

by circulating books to groups and to individuals. We feel a vital interest in the people using the traveling libraries. The individual borrower becomes our friend because in return for help given she often expresses an appreciation which bespeaks her kindly spirit.

And yet, figures do speak effectively. By them we note that more people have been served during the last two years than in any previous biennium. In large measure this growth is due to a normal expansion of the work, though counting renewals as loans accounts in part for the increase. This has been done since January, 1921, when it was so voted at the Chicago meeting of the League of Library Commissions. The increase in requests filled since the last report is 2,193; the increase in volumes loaned 19,321. The records show that books have been sent into every county in the state. A table of comparative statistics will be found elsewhere in this report. The sixth biennial report, in 1912, shows 1,306 requests filled; the record for 1922 is 6,218, an increase of 4,907 requests filled.

The system of loans consists of traveling libraries sent to groups and reference material sent to groups and individuals.

Traveling Libraries

From the second report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission the following is quoted: "The first traveling library was sent from this office in December, 1901. It went to a barber shop from which the books circulated during its three months' stay. The barber was deeply interested in the welfare of his community. He had the true library spirit." During all the years since that December in 1901, the traveling libraries have been upon their way, going here and there into every corner of the state. They have circulated from residences, schools, post-offices, libraries, churches, banks, barber shops, court houses, club rooms, drug stores, general stores, offices of doctors, county agricultural agents and county superintendents. Could one have followed them, many a human interest story could no doubt be told of the splendid spirit on the part of those who have given freely of their services as librarians.

The demand and the interest continue. The winter months find the supply insufficient to insure prompt service. It has been necessary this fall to send out a letter asking would-be borrowers to be patient. As public libraries become better equipped, they are requested to give way to the rural schools whose need is greater. It is impossible to keep pace with the call from the English departments of the high schools. The number of books loaned to a community is lessened during the season of greatest stress in order to serve more communities. It becomes a parceling like the sugar rationing of war-time. Even the summer time supply of traveling libraries on hand is growing less as the public libraries take increasing advantage of this opportunity to supplement their own collection of books.

A state department knowing its clientele chiefly by correspondence has been considered by some as a mere machine of the mail-order variety. Such is not true. No one could fail to be personally interested in the housewife who writes thus under recent date: "We are anxious to have another library as the evenings are long now. The books have been a big help here as we have very little else for our amusement. At first very few read the books but now we have very nearly every family represented. They are getting anxious for more books. If you knew what an event the arrival of the books is you would know that your effort to send us such good books as you have is surely appreciated."

This comes from one teaching in a little town many miles from a railroad: "We all certainly enjoyed the library. We used some of the books in school and some the children took home to their parents. Reading matter is so hard to get in this country and they do so like the traveling library." Another letter from the same person says: "I merely wish to thank you for the library we had before and ask that you keep my name in line as near the front as possible as we are very anxious to secure another library. Our school is especially handicapped for lack of books."

Reference.

We are experiencing growing pains in this department of our work. The call for program suggestions and outlines, bibliographies and books covering many topics of study comes to us increasingly from the women as individuals and as club borrowers. The cry for debate helps is statewide and insistent. Last year we could not keep pace with the Rural Club demand for Child Welfare material, though we bought as liberally as our means justified in order to keep faith with Miss Stella Mather of the Extension Department in her plan and program for the women of rural Nebraska. A letter to the public libraries asking them to supplement the Commission material on this topic brought some relief. It would be appreciated if public libraries would thus help their own local debaters. North Platte did this last year and won the state championship.

In spite of an effort to buy along lines of probable demand, the reference collection is inadequate. The removal of the Commission to the University campus is a partial solution of the problem of meeting these reference requests. Easy access to the University library makes it possible to borrow from its collection.

Believing that effort and books were being duplicated, a comparison was made of the requests coming to the Extension Department of the University and to the Commission over a sufficient period of time to prove that this was true. Following a conference of Mr. Wyer and Mr. A. A. Reed of the Extension Department, it was arranged that the Extension requests should be referred to the Commission, for a consideration agreed upon. The loans from this source for the past six months

number 624. The entire number of reference loans to clubs and individuals for the biennium is 5,171.

Institutional Libraries

There has been no opportunity to develop along any special line in the institutional library work. While the same care in book selection has been exercised and the general supervision has been carried on as formerly, the secretary has not made as many visits to the institutions as she did during the years when the greater part of her time was devoted to this branch of the Commission work.

Books and periodicals have been provided as liberally as the funds allowed. The magazines for the several institutions number 265. The total number of volumes in all the libraries is 15,482. Appreciative words come from superintendents, officers and the inmate population in return for the reading matter supplied. It continues notably true that the library at the Penitentiary is an essential part of that institution. More and more do the men request books along technical lines. These are supplied by buying the best that are published, as listed by those having knowledge of their merits.

In addition to the libraries functioning since 1911, we are making beginnings in two institutions created by recent legislatures. We have a few books and magazines in circulation at the Reformatory for Women at York. The men at the Reformatory near Lincoln were so eager for books that a loan of the Commission books was made while waiting for those which are to make up their permanent collection. On a certain Saturday morning these books were placed upon shelves which the boys had made, according to our specifications, in their manual training department. One of the men was selected as librarian. A simple charging system was explained to him. In less than an hour, and the noon hour at that, thirty books had been loaned and other men were waiting to be served. Among the first thirty books chosen were Robin Hood, Gold seeking on the Dalton trail, Sons of liberty, Tom Sawyer, Uncle Sam's modern miracles, Lone Bull's mistake, Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, Boy Scouts, Dick Arnold of Raritan college, Boys' book of sports, Crooked trails, Heart of the west, Lure of the Labrador wild, Seventeen, Blue Jackets of 1918 and Widow O'Callaghan's boys. Some of the men preferred reading the magazines which we had provided and one colored boy who could not read was particularly enjoying the stereoscope and views which we find are popular among many of the institutional people.

The circulation reported for the preceding biennium, in all institutions, was 70,634. During the biennium just closing, the loan reached 89,364, making an increase of 18,730. We have every reason to believe that these figures are accurate. In both cases, the numbers are exclusive of periodical literature, of which no record is kept.

The greatest need of the libraries at present is a librarian in each

institution who can give more time to the work. One reason that our per capita circulation at the Penitentiary and at the Tuberculous hospital is so large is because there is daily opportunity to exchange books. In some places we are greatly handicapped because little or no time is given to the library. It is with great regret that we read on one circulation blank each month "No librarian." We hope that the promise of the Board to change this condition may soon result in having some one to see that the books provided reach those who enjoy the diversion which they afford.

In October, 1922, the secretary was invited to speak on Prison Libraries at the Prison Conference in Detroit. A conflict of dates prevented attendance.

Publicity

In addition to the advertising which comes by way of its friends, the Commission has made use of some means of publicity. The Associated Press interviewed us regarding our work and broadcasted us thus. An article in the December first issue of the Nebraska Farm Journal is making us known and bids fair to swamp us with requests. One of these under date of December 6, reads: "We will probably have many leisure winter evenings which we wish to use to some advantage and we want to take up a few studies. My husband decided to take up civil engineering and I want to take dressmaking and millinery. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated." Some one unknown to us has brought us returns by entering the Commission in the Beatrice Fairfax column where we are advertised just below an answer to Brown Eyes.

The secretary has talked on the Library Commission before a University class in History of Education, at the state conference of the League of Women Voters, at the state Federation of Women's Clubs at Seward in 1921, and at four district Federation meetings in the spring of 1922. Miss Nesbit represented the Commission at the state Federation meeting in North Platte, in October, 1922. At each of these places we had on display an exhibit of attractively illustrated children's books, and the American Library Association county library poster exhibit. We had book lists and leaflets on various topics for distribution, the supply of which was never sufficient. The county library exhibit of posters was displayed at the state Teachers Association in Lincoln in October, 1922. The secretary has talked on the county library, the Library Commission and allied subjects before several clubs. She has been obliged to decline some invitations due to office demands and conflict of dates.

The instances cited show that the means of making the Commission known are limited and casual. It is not possible to conduct an organized campaign of publicity because no facilities for so doing are provided.

Needs

The ninth biennial report of the Commission shows that 3,125 re-

quests were filled during the years 1916-1918. The requests filled during this biennium are 6,218, an increase of 99% in four years. The number on the staff remains the same as it did four years ago. This does not mean that those in charge of the loans are doing double the work of their predecessors. That would not be possible. It means that they have not had time to assist in other details of the work. General correspondence has materially increased during the last two years. For these and other reasons the secretary is less free to meet the out-of-office calls. It necessarily follows that if she gives proportionately too much time to office demands, the field work suffers, or vice versa. The needs require a Field Agent.

The Commission should have additional funds for maintenance and for books if it is to meet the needs of the state for the special service which it is trying to render. The requests for books and traveling libraries cannot be filled promptly unless the collection can be enlarged.

An increase on the staff and in books depends upon the appropriation of the legislature. We have presented these needs to the Governor for his recommendation to the members of the coming session:

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Seven tax-supported libraries have been added to the list of 116 reported two years ago, making 123 municipal and township libraries in Nebraska. These libraries are at Arapahoe, Bridgeport, Newman Grove, Ralston, Rushville, Sargent and Ulysses, the two latter being township libraries. The municipal library of Fullerton now receives support from two townships. This makes a total of 16 township libraries in the state.

There are in Nebraska 21 cities of a population of 3000 and up, all of which have tax-supported libraries. There are 23 towns between 2000 and 3000 population, 20 of which maintain libraries by tax. Ord, South Sioux City and Wahoo have no libraries, though there is strong library interest in the two former towns. Nebraska has 65 towns between 1000 and 2000 population; 48 of these have taxed libraries, 17 have not. Of these 17 towns, 15 have association libraries, leaving two without any library facilities, to our knowledge. These are Curtis and Wilbur. There are 32 towns under 1000 population which have taxed libraries.

There have been added 21 association libraries during the last biennium. The secretary has assisted in the organization or has visited 14 of these.

The association libraries are those which are supported in other ways than by tax. The list is as follows, the newly organized being indicated by a star:

Adams	Fairmont*	Oxford
Alexandria	Gordon*	Page*
Atkinson*	Gresham	Palmyra
Beaver City*	Hay Springs*	Polk
Beaver Crossing	Hemingford	Potter
Bradshaw	Herman	St. Paul
Brock	Keystone	Salem
Cambridge	Leigh*	Shubert
Clarkson*	Long Pine*	South Sioux City*
Crookston*	Monroe*	Sutherland*
Dakota City*	Minatare	Tilden*
Davenport*	Mitchell	Valentine*
Diller*	Murray	Valley
Dorchester	Ogallala	Valparaiso
Elmwood	Ord*	Waterloo
Eustis	Oshkosh*	Western*

The secretary of the Commission would appreciate being informed of any, unknown to her, which should be in the above list. If space permitted, some interesting stories might be told of the work which is being accomplished in some of these libraries. Several of them should soon grow into tax-supported libraries, either municipal or as a part of a county system. In almost every case, great credit is due a club of women with the proverbially faithful few giving abundantly of time and energy. The secretary has also had correspondence with a number of towns where there is an awakening or reawakening of library interest.

Since our last report Cozad and Scottsbluff have erected library buildings from money given by the Carnegie Corporation which was promised before the war-time withdrawal of gifts. The Cozad library was erected at a cost of \$8,500.00, \$6,000.00 from the Carnegie Corporation, \$2,500.00 from the citizens. The Scottsbluff library cost \$15,000.00. This makes a total of 68 libraries erected by gifts from Mr. Carnegie or the Carnegie Corporation. In May, 1922, Hebron dedicated a library which was built with the \$18,000.00 bequest of L. O. Secrist, a former resident of Hebron. In 1918, Mr. J. M. Preston of Orleans gave money with which was erected a beautiful library in memory of his wife. Mr. Preston died in 1922, leaving an endowment of \$20,000.00 to the Orleans township library. The Arnold township library received a bequest of \$17,500.00, from Mrs. Sarah A. Finch, to be used for a library building. Auburn has been given a residence by the Allen brothers of that city. This house is being used at present by the library which was compelled to vacate its High School quarters.

The general status of the public libraries in Nebraska is not materially changed. In a few places incomes have been substantially in-

creased, in some they have been lowered. The majority remain approximately the same as two years ago. Several library boards have seen fit to lower salaries. In about three-fourths of the libraries, salaries have been raised, in a few of which the librarian is receiving \$1,500.00 or more.

Statistics show that in some libraries circulation has fallen off. In many there has been a normal growth. A few have made a rather phenomenal increase in the number of books loaned. In the latter instances, the cause can be traced to unusually faithful service on the part of librarians who have library boards of vision.

It is with regret that we record the death of three librarians, Ruth L. Borden, of Burwell, Lillian Simpkins, for many years the librarian in David City, and Mrs. Nettie Johnson of Fullerton.

In 1921, a publicity committee was appointed by the Nebraska Library Association, its object being to aid librarians by an exchange of methods of advertising employed. The committee consisted of Anna V. Jennings, of the State Teachers College, Kearney, Edna D. Bullock of the Legislative Reference Bureau, Lincoln, and Marguerite Nesbit of the Library Commission, Lincoln. All clippings were to be sent to Miss Nesbit. The report of the chairman at the N. L. A. session of the St. Joseph meeting in 1922 showed that a few excellent articles had been received. It is desired to continue and increase this work, the Commission hoping to get material enough to issue circular letters from time to time.

The League of Library Commissions, at its session in Detroit, in June, 1922, expressed the belief that library work would develop faster if the active interest of more library trustees could be secured. The League, therefore, passed a resolution that it would make every effort to organize library trustees in every state. In accordance with this resolution, a circular letter was sent out by the secretary of the Commission to the trustees of the state. It is hoped that the tentative plan for such an organization may be furthered in the spring. Could we have cooperative action on the part of the trustees it would be possible to focus attention on librarianship, county libraries and other topics vital to the building of better libraries in Nebraska.

The only change in the session laws of Nebraska for 1919, relating to libraries, is found in the compiled statutes of 1922, under Section 3186 as follows: Provided, further, that cities having home rule charters shall have the power to fix, by ordinance, the number of members of such library boards.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

There is a demand from rural Nebraska for reading matter. Schools, clubs and individuals appeal to the sources of supply to borrow the books which they need for study and which they desire for recreation. The

principal sources of supply are state, municipal and township libraries. The Library Commission is a state department functioning, in part, to render such service. Calls come to the Commission from far and near. They come from the less prosperous districts; they come from the parts of the state which take pride in providing the best in roads, in schools and in everything but libraries. On another page of this report it has been said that the Commission and other state sources of book-supply cannot promptly meet the demands upon them, the delay in some instances being beyond the time of need.

There are small and scattered circles of library facilities which represent the municipal and township libraries of the state. In a carefully prepared pamphlet by Professor J. O. Rankin of the Agricultural College on "Reading matter in Nebraska farm homes," he states that less than two-fifths of the people of Nebraska are within these circles. It follows that more than three-fifths of the population are without library facilities. Many of the people in the three-fifths class apply to their nearest town library for books. Some are paying a nominal sum for the privilege; others are receiving gratis a service which is paid for by the taxed population supporting the library. Many of our libraries are not well enough financed to meet all the needs of the people within the taxed area, making it obviously impossible to render satisfactory service to all, if not unfair to the town to try to serve the country.

There are in Nebraska a few libraries where the unit is extended from the municipality to the township, the tax being shared by all living within the township. Some of these libraries are reaching a large part of the people within the prescribed limits. But the state does not lend itself to this plan because all counties do not have township organization. Nor is a scattered township here and there able greatly to lessen Nebraska's unlibraried population.

Since there is a demand for books from the rural population and the sources of supply are not adequate, how is the problem to be solved? Our reply is that the matter merely resolves itself into a question as to whether those outside library circles desire sufficiently to be within such a circle to pay for the privilege. This can be done by means of a county library for which the Nebraska law makes provision. A county library is a circulating library maintained by the county to provide books for everybody in the county. It can be supported by a small tax upon the county at a much lower per capita cost than the municipality imposes upon itself for its library privileges.

At a time when Dakota corn was selling for less than Nebraska corn, a Dakota farmer bringing in his armful of books expressed his appreciation of the county library which provides him and his family with reading matter at so slight a cost. In spite of the fact that a pair of husking mittens and a bushel of corn have sold at equal prices in Ne-

braaska, the question of county libraries has been agitated in some counties during the last two years. It is necessary that the interest develop within the county, the initiative being taken by those who see the need of county-wide library service. When they feel this need, they will take means to provide it. The Library Commission is ready to assist in any such campaign by loaning material on the county library and by personal visits.

NEBRASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

In October, 1921, the Nebraska Library Association held its 27th annual conference in Grand Island with 66 registered in attendance. This was considered a good representation for a location thus far removed from the library center of the state. The policy of the association culminating in the meeting at Grand Island was an emphasis of the need that greater support be given the Library Commission. At this meeting, Nebraska accepted an invitation of the Missouri Library Association to meet in a Missouri Valley Conference in 1922.

On invitation of the respective library boards, two district meetings were held, one in Fairbury in May, 1921, the other in Falls City in May, 1922. These meetings were under the supervision of the N. L. A. officers, working in cooperation with the Commission, and ably assisted by the librarians, Miss McQuaid and Miss Hutchings. The attendance was not large but a sufficient number was present to stimulate discussion. The very informal nature of the one-day meetings made them of profit. At Fairbury there was about an equal number of trustees and librarians, permitting the afternoon session to take the form of two group conferences. Weather conditions interfered with the attendance at Falls City, but a number of topics were enthusiastically discussed. At both places we were most cordially welcomed. It is our hope to continue these spring-time district meetings over the state.

The By-laws of the American Library Association adopted in 1921 made provision for the executive board to arrange for regional meetings to include such chapters or library associations as it sees fit to group. The first regional conference under this provision was held in St. Joseph, Missouri, October 17-19, 1922. This meeting, planned the year previous, was under the auspices of the library associations of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Being officially designated a regional meeting, the American Library Association was represented by its President, Mr. George B. Utley, who addressed the conference on "The library of the future." Mr. Milton J. Ferguson, Librarian of the California State Library, was present and talked on County Libraries. The registration was 247, there being 105 from Missouri, 72 from Kansas, 54 from Nebraska, 12 from Iowa, and one each from California, Illinois, New York and Oklahoma. A full report of the St. Joseph meeting is printed in the Library Messenger, published by the Missouri Library Commission. By the courtesy of the Secretary, Mr. I. R. Bundy, copies have been made available for distribution to the libraries in Nebraska.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes accessioned to December 1, 1920	-----	26,198
Volumes in library December 1, 1920	-----	21,309
Volumes added from December 1, 1920 to November 30, 1922	-----	3,696
Volumes withdrawn to December 1, 1922	-----	4,879
Volumes withdrawn from December 1, 1920 to November 30, 1922	-----	755
Volumes accessioned to November 30, 1922	-----	29,884
Volumes in library November 30, 1922	-----	24,250

EXPENDITURES DECEMBER 1, 1920 TO NOVEMBER 30, 1922

	From Appropriation 1919-1921	Special Appropriation April-June 1922	From Appropriation 1921-1923
Books -----	\$ 684.63	\$ 749.82	\$ 4,396.73
Maintenance -----	718.87	411.92	2,860.90
Binding -----	29.40	124.60	510.90
Institutional libraries -----	453.93	625.00	3,225.50
Salaries and wages -----	1,563.15	1,882.30	7,822.90
 	<hr/> \$ 3,449.48	<hr/> \$ 3,293.64	<hr/> \$18,816.93
			3,449.48
			3,293.64
Total -----			<hr/> 25,060.05
Special appropriation April 1, 1921 to June 30, 1921	-----	3,295.00	
Appropriation July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1923	-----	26,360.00	
Balance -----	-----	8,048.07	
Expended July 1, 1921 to November 30, 1922	-----	18,816.93	

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Vols.	Director
State Library	Lincoln	84,251	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Commission	Lincoln	24,250	Nellie Williams
Legislative Ref. Bureau	Lincoln	30,000*	Edna D. Bullock
State Historical Society	Lincoln	60,000	Mrs. C. S. Paine
* Chiefly pamphlets and clippings			

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Vols.	Librarian
Cotner College	Bethany	8,500	Ernest W. Lundeen
Creighton University	Omaha	57,000	W. T. Kinsella
Doane College	Crete	15,126	Nora Hjelm
Grand Island College	Grand Island	9,600	Gertrude M. Suess
Hastings College	Hastings	6,800	Mrs. Ida E. Caps
Lincoln High School	Lincoln	3,800	Jessie J. Glass
Luther College	Wahoo	3,500	Emma W. Peterson
Nebraska Wesleyan Uni.	Uni. Place	18,335	Ethol M. Langdon
Omaha Central High School	Omaha	9,820	Zora Shields
Omaha Technical High School	Omaha	7,500	May Ingles
Omaha South High School	Omaha	4,860	Clare Mackin
State Teachers College	Chadron	6,374	Lillie Cilley
State Teachers College	Kearney	20,000	Anna V. Jennings
State Teachers College	Peru	33,237	Mabel E. Marshall
State Teachers College	Wayne	10,000	Jessie P. Jenks
Union College	College View	8,500	Dorothy Pearce
University of Nebraska	Lincoln	165,000	Malcolm G. Wyer
York College	York	3,500	Charles Bisset

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

INSTITUTION	Place	Population (exclusive of employees)	Volumes in Library	Circulation for Biennium	EXPENDITURES FOR BIENNIIUM		
					Books	Periodicals	Supplies and Travel
Boys' Industrial School	Kearney	199	916	7,257	\$ 379.26	\$ 154.45	-----
Girls' Industrial School	Geneva	186	1,029	4,900	235.78	68.40	-----
Home for Feeble-Minded	Beatrice	754	989	2,250 [†]	89.18	90.10	-----
Hospital for Tuberculous	Kearney	103	649	4,849	162.95	84.66	-----
Industrial Home for Women	McMord	86	569	1,860	101.86	52.25	-----
Orthopedic Hospital	Lincoln	97	1,461	----- [†]	66.06	86.06	-----
Penitentiary	Lincoln	596	2,878	44,070	398.10	181.00	-----
Reformatory for Men*	Lincoln	184	---	---	---	---	-----
Reformatory for Women*	York	21	---	---	---	---	-----
School for the Deaf	Omaha	1,546	4,821 [†]	111.26	88.15	-----	-----
Soldiers' Home	Burkeet	886	1,402	4,005	45.00	94.55	-----
Soldiers' Home	McMord	181	608	1,220	88.40	61.20	-----
State Hospital for Insane	Ingleaside	1,202	1,566	7,816	380.42	-----	-----
State Hospital for Insane	Lincoln	982	1,001	2,756	307.83	159.30	-----
State Hospital for Insane	Norfolk	787	923	1,920	358.89	92.80	-----
All Institutions				-----	-----	-----	\$ 340.66

* Too recently organized to report

† No report

‡ Report for 16 months

1000

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Popu- lation	EXPENDITURES			Hrs. per week	Patrons	Circula- tion	Librarian
		Income	Salaries	Books				
1 Alnsworth	1,508	\$ 900	\$ 445	\$ 187	\$ 292	3,366	24	950
2 Albion	1,978	1,200	507	187	322	4,500	16	740
3 Alliance	4,691	2,300	1,227	472	1,168	8,542	30	—
4 Alma	1,000	1,458	405	181	364	2,646	24	—
5 Anoley	—	1,819	177	288	700	1,738	11	600
6 Arapahoe	894	500	180	671	80	1,016	6	491
7 Arcadia	—	1,125†	1,800	109	498	2,808	33	789
8 Arlington	895	530	206	168	—	—	—	7,127
9 Arnold*	—	1,692†	386	327	292	2,850	15	893
10 Ashland	—	1,725	2,953	571	571	5,540	27	1,319
11 Auburn	—	2,962	1,250	567	567	5,319	24	908
12 Aurora	—	2,306	986	184	725	5,319	24	15,120
13 Bayard	—	2,127	1,500	420	600	347	13	927
14 Beatrice	—	9,664	4,833	2,395	944	14,682	63	4,720
15 Blair	—	2,602	2,000	560	368	562	4035	30
16 Bloomfield	—	1,481	1,500	244	340	2,092	33	872
17 Bridgeport	—	1,226	800	200	325	1,045	9	274
18 Broken Bow	—	2,567	2,500	810	56	3,058	35	1,256
19 Burwell	—	1,214	525	800	120	92	15	329
20 Carroll	—	448	176	50	57	1,012	5	118
21 Cedar Rapids	766	450	140	150	71	2,540	8	350
22 Central City	2,410	1,500	720	278	374	5,000	30	8,169
23 Chadron	—	4,412	1,242	950	648	445	21	1,432
24 Chappell	—	1,181	1,000	860	160	1,164	10	2,900
25 Clarks*	—	1,457†	1,800	704	246	1,903	29	654

* Township library
† Including township population
§ Report not received

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Popu- lation	Income	EXPENDITURES			Vol. Other	Hrs. per week	Patrons	Circula- tion	Librarian
			Salaries	Books	Other					
26 Clay Center	984	\$ 1,000	\$ 582	\$ 25	\$ 620	2,008	80	462	4,000	Bertha F. Jessup
27 College View	2,249	1,100	511	129	896	3,596	80	500	5,929	Mary R. Welch
28 Columbus	5,410	3,598	1,875	662	775	7,384	88	3,261	26,613	Rose Riddell
29 Coopers	1,233	800	810	250	—	750	14	160	3,600	Edith L. Allen
30 Crawford	1,616	510	185	262	157	2,205	7	765	8,828	Mrs. C. J. Hornsby
31 Creighton	1,446	—	240	320	129	1,776	10	924	6,953	Mrs. Adela Horn
32 Crete	2,445	1,391	604	406	569	6,285	30	546	11,726	Mrs. Sadie C. Baker
33 David City	2,216	1,400	900	300	100	5,000	82	856	17,000	Mrs. Ella V. Meyer
34 De Witt	628	825	114	150	209	2,200	18	120	4,745	Rosa Koenig
35 Fairbury	5,454	4,245	1,984	829	2,078	8,604	51	2,432	40,554	Mary C. McQuaid
36 Fairfield	784	923	420	54	469	2,000	88	100	4,902	Mrs. Alma E. Ewing
37 Falls City	4,980	4,400	1,875	583	1,222	10,388	42	1,291	45,878	Mary Hutchings
38 Franklin	1,065	775	221	248	400	3,425	10	500	10,881	Mrs. W. F. Humphreys
39 Fremont	9,605	6,770	1,950	577	1,844	12,243	58	4,000	54,278	Sara E. Gosselink
40 Friend	1,263	1,200	482	200	390	1,540	80	—	8,586	Rutha Doner
41 Fullerton	1,595	1,413	939	282	220	4,801	24	1,486	17,690	Mrs. Howard Downing
42 Geneva	1,768	1,922	802	288	689	4,153	40	925	9,400	Mrs. Isabel Bixby
43 Genoa	1,069	900	120	160	12	—	8	600	6,000	Mrs. C. H. Shields
44 Gering	2,508	1,227	384	225	158	1,400	12	300	9,704	Mrs. Ida Ripley
45 Gibbon*	1,432	944	540	150	386	2,630	24	610	7,734	Mrs. C. E. Bartlett
46 Gothenburg	1,754	2,137	960	250	887	2,456	30	1,280	8,731	S. Frances Botkin
47 Grand Island	18,947	6,000	2,659	583	1,102	7,899	50	2,225	35,728	Daisy Houck
48 Guide Rock	611	673	598	270	187	2,007	18	475	8,222	E. Katherine Guy
49 Hartington	1,467	1,736	661	925	—	4,000	18	351	6,307	Mrs. Kate S. Bryant
50 Harvard	—	991	1,100	441	163	442	80	890	8,067	Mrs. A. J. Jenison

* Township library
† Including township population
§ Report not received

TAX SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Popu- lation	Income	EXPENDITURES			Hrs. per week	Patrons	Circula- tion	Librarian	
			Salaries	Books	Other					
51 Hastings	11,647	\$3,600.	\$1,680	\$559	\$ 851	10,245	63	2,528	Mae P. Hermle	
52 Havelock	3,602	2,290	984	539	484	5,000	48	1,933	Mrs. Susie G. Smith	
53 Hebron	1,513	1,450	545	200	404	1,200	30	306	Mrs. Floy Talbott	
54 Holdrege	3,108	1,820	1,080	476	265	5,466	37	1,275	Mrs. Catherine Wills	
55 Hooper	1,014	205	155	80	84	2,475	15	—	Joel Warner	
56 Humboldt	1,277	1,296	648	112	245	3,000	6	500	Mrs. J. K. Liggett	
57 Kearney	7,702	2,659.	1,631	390	712	11,308	48	4,429	Mrs. Mary E. O'Brian	
58 Kimball	1,620	600.	240	112	236	1,236	30	370	Mrs. J. H. Russell	
59 Laurel	880	600.	360	240	—	1,507	—	—	Roy L. Lotdrop	
60 Lexington	2,327	2,869.	860	420	688	2,540	45	905	Mary Kelley	
61 Lincoln	54,948	31,850.	13,980	7,938	7,406	56,761	79	17,804	Lulu Horne	
62 Louisville	645	100.	65	17	80	1,069	6	176	Edith F. Shroyer	
63 Loup City*	—	1,968†	1,843	1,139	89	565	2,809	36	1,064	Mrs. Dan McDonald
64 McCook	4,303	1,478.	1,080	73	550	7,046	51	1,203	Grace Willets	
65 Madison	1,735	2,569.	960	429	598	4,025	36	816	Mrs. Anna D. Johnson	
66 Merna*	—	1,500.	720	166	349	3,079	20	689	Mrs. H. K. Atkisson	
67 Minden	1,527	900.	480	342	244	4,284	24	1,239	Mrs. Helen E. Slusser	
68 Morrill	—	772	—	—	—	—	—	—	Mrs. S. J. Medlin	
69 Nebraska City	6,279	2,400.	1,130	900	400	7,800	42	1,135	Anne Stevenson	
70 Neigh	—	1,724	1,200.	640	155	4,145	15	411	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones	
71 Nelson	—	955	354	80	220	40	1,990	8	587	Alice E. Ruddell
72 Newman Grove†	1,260	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
73 Norfolk	—	8,634	5,000.	1,549	578	2,132	7,261	36	2,000	Laura Durland
74 North Bend*	1,087	776.	555	200	202	2,488	33	675	Laura Round	
75 North Platte	10,466	3,244.	1,822	696	1,112	6,747	42	4,086	Eleanor M. Wheeler	

* Township library

† Report not received

‡ Too recently organized to report

TWELFTH
Biennial Report
Nebraska
Public Library
Commission





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Twelfth Biennial Report

of the

**Nebraska Public Library
Commission**

**Lincoln, Nebraska
November 30, 1924**

Nebraska Public Library Commission

MRS. MARGARETTA S. DIETRICH, President,
Hastings, Nebraska

S. AVERY
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

NELLIE JANE COMPTON
Acting Librarian of the University of Nebraska

J. M. MATZEN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY
State Librarian

NELLIE WILLIAMS, Secretary
and
Librarian for State Institutions

MARGUERITE NESBIT
Reference Librarian

GRACE HOUTS
Clerk for Traveling Libraries

Nebraska Public Library Commission
10/11/32

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Hon. Chas. W. Bryan, Governor of Nebraska:

DEAR SIR: Complying with the requirements of the law, I herewith present the report of the Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1924.

Respectfully yours,
MARGARETTA S. DIETRICH,
President.



Nebraska Public Library Commission

SECRETARY'S REPORT

December 1, 1922, to November 30, 1924

THE COMMISSION.

The Library Commission consists of a board of five members, four ex-officio and one appointed by the Governor for a term of five years. The present board has been working together since the appointment of Mrs. Dietrich by Governor McKelvie in December, 1920. Also, four years ago the present state superintendent of public instruction, Mr. Matzen, assumed the duties of a member, as delegated him by law. The other members have served for longer periods of time. The state librarian, Mr. Lindsay, is the senior member. For twenty years he has been interested in the development of the work and has given generously of his time and thought. Chancellor Avery is the second in seniority, having been a member since 1909. The librarian of the University library, Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer, has been a member of the commission for eleven years. In September, 1924, Mr. Wyer severed his relations with the University of Nebraska, accepting a position as librarian of the Denver public library. We wish here to pay tribute to the service rendered the library commission by Mr. Wyer. He has always felt a vital interest in its work and has given wise counsel regarding it. Not only the commission but all library interests of the state have suffered a keen loss by his change in fields of service. We wish him success and happiness in his new work. Until the appointment of his successor, his assistant, Miss Nellie Jane Compton, is acting librarian of the University library.

The board acts only in an advisory capacity, the actual duties of the commission being done by the secretary and assistants. The secretary feels the need of help from each member of the board. She appreciates the cooperation which has been given.

Personnel

The present office staff consists of the secretary, Nellie Williams, the reference librarian, Marguerite Nesbit, and the clerk for traveling libraries, Grace Houts. Miss Nesbit took a year's leave of absence during which time Louise Winn of the University of Oklahoma acted as reference librarian. Miss Nesbit returned to the commission in September, 1924, Miss Winn going to Illinois to continue her course in library science.

Previous to July, 1923, the staff numbered four. A reduction in the salary fund necessitated a reduction in the staff. By this means a salary was released which has been used in the employment of student helpers who give hourly assistance. We have tried to meet this condition as philosophically as possible, but it must be admitted that the activities of the commission have been crippled thereby. The following pages which set forth the nature and extent of the work will disclose clearly the inadequate size of the staff.

Aim

"The real purpose of a library commission is to promote library extension, to encourage the founding of libraries where none exist and to aid in their intelligent and economical administration." Perhaps the aim of the Nebraska library commission has never been better expressed than in the letter of transmittal at the close of the first biennium by the president, Mr. J. I. Wyer, to Governor Savage, when he said, "Its work is educational and constructive and its aim to make Nebraska a better and more attractive state to live in, creates a sound economic reason for its existence."

There are at present two specific measures by way of which we feel that the library commission may help to make its aim effective. These are adult education and illiteracy. The library world is at present engaged in a program of adult education. The Carnegie Corporation has given funds to conduct a survey and to make a study of libraries and adult education. There is also nation-wide interest in the problem of illiteracy.

A chance to help directly in these two causes comes by way of two organizations, the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs and the Nebraska Illiteracy Commission. To Mrs. Paul C. Perryman, who is president of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs and also chairman of the Illiteracy Commission, is largely due the opportunity of the libraries and library commission to engage actively in these educational and constructive pieces of work.

At the initial suggestion of the president of the library commission, Mrs. Dietrich, Mrs. Ida E. Capps of Hastings, library chairman of the State Federation, Mrs. Perrymann and Miss Williams held a conference in the interest of Nebraska club and library activities. The result was a place on the Federation calendar for Library Day. This is to be the second club meeting in January, 1925. A letter, financed by the Federation, was sent by Mrs. Capps to all club women of the state. Among other suggestions for the Library Day program is the question, "Is our library a factor in adult education?" We solicit the help of every librarian in the state in an effort to make the observance of a library day the basis of further constructive and cooperative work.

We believe in the public library. We believe in its growing usefulness. We like to think of it according to Dr. W. S. Learned as a "community intelligence center." It gives us courage to note the trend of Dr. Learned's thought in his "American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge" where he says of the public library, "It will be a center as familiar to every inhabitant as the local post-office, and as inevitably patronized. It will constitute the central intelligence service of the town not only for 'polite' literature, but for every commercial and vocational field of information that it may prove practicable to enter. Merchants will find there catalogues and trade lists; builders and plumbers, the technical books of their crafts; students, old or young, the orderly progress of books or materials in any important study; clergymen, the best works and periodicals dealing with religion; motorists, the latest road maps and touring guides; and artists, both technical works and comprehensive collections of pictures.

"Obviously, such an institution in a small town will not possess an extensive collection of books and materials, but it will be in close working connection with towns and cities where such collections are and where answers to questions and books on loan can be speedily secured at a trifling fee. With such connections the resources of a great part of the country may be made available for a relatively small circle."

In accordance with other states Nebraska has an illiteracy commission which is well organized for definite work. This will include the claim of the near-illiterate as well as the illiterate. It is our hope to be able to

assist in bringing Nebraska to its former high state of literacy.

Activities

The work of the Nebraska Library Commission is organized under three general divisions, field activities, a system of traveling libraries and reference loans, the building and supervising of libraries in the state institutions under the Board of Control.

Field Work

When the library commission was organized in 1901, there were 24 tax-supported libraries in Nebraska. There are now 126 towns in the state which are maintaining libraries. The commission has given definite assistance in the establishment and organization of these libraries. Field activities are not confined to help in organizing new libraries. Problems of administration, technical assistance and visits of friendly encouragement are legitimate commission work. Regular visits should be made to all public libraries of the state. There is a growing list which we call association libraries, fostered by the women's clubs. It is from such beginnings that the greater number of our free public libraries has grown. There should be personal visits to these libraries in an early stage of their development. Some of them are strategically located and may be the possible beginnings of county library systems.

All visits by the commission are made without expense to the community receiving help.

Loans

The second activity of the library commission is its circulation of books to groups and individuals, upon application. The increase in requests during the past two years is a surprise even to ourselves. The total number of requests filled is 10,165 as against 6,213 for the preceding biennium, or an increase of 64%. There has been a phenomenal growth in the requests from individuals, the increase being 92% or 6,861 in contrast to 3,569 of the biennium preceding. While the increase in requests reaches a percentage of 64, the increase in number of volumes loaned is only 11%. As Mr. Bundy, Secretary of the Missouri commission says: "The work and expense of circulating books is increasing faster than the number of books circulated. Hence, if the service is to grow, appropriations must be increased in order to provide more books and a larger working force."

In answer to all requests of the biennium 86,230 books have been loaned, 62,287 in traveling library groups and 23,934 to individuals. It is difficult to secure a record of circulation from the traveling library borrowers, but it is the custom in this and other library commissions to

count five circulations to a volume. This conservative estimate brings the circulation of these books to 311,435 volumes. Add to this the 23,943 individual loans and the total circulation for the biennium reaches 335,378.

A summary of requests and loans for the biennium just closing and a table of comparative statistics is given on another page of this report.

We wish to say a word about the work entailed in loaning these 86,230 volumes. It is quite a different matter to send out this number of books from a library commission than it is to loan them from a public library. There is much more detail work in shipping by freight or sending by post than in a hand-to-hand transfer of a book from the librarian to the borrower across the desk. Unless one has visited such a department he probably has but a vague idea of the record work which attaches to the exchange of traveling libraries or the time required to charge, wrap, weigh, stamp and get into Uncle Sam's hands the packages which go by mail.

The traveling libraries are instrumental in advancing the general purposes of the commission. Through their use, people learn what a library means to a community and establish a free public library, thus providing locally what they formerly received from the commission. The traveling libraries are fixed groups of books, supplemented by books along various lines. They are loaned for a period of three months to any group of taxpayers, the borrower paying the transportation charge both ways. The traveling libraries are for adults and for children. They are loaned to public libraries, schools, especially rural schools, other organizations and residential groups.

During the biennium, 993 traveling libraries have been loaned to 90 counties. The three counties which have not been served are Douglas, Gosper and Loup. The counties leading with the number of traveling libraries borrowed are Lincoln 36, Lancaster 35, Thayer 32, Custer 31, Cedar 30, Gage 26, Saunders 24, Cass 21.

By careful parcelling, the requests for fixed collections can be filled in a more or less reasonable time. There is one overwhelming demand which the commission can not meet. It is for fiction to be used in the English departments of the High Schools. We have a limited number of copies of Lorna Doone, Robinson Crusoe and Tom Sawyer but hundreds of copies would not be sufficient. Nor do we feel that we should build to keep pace with

Traveling Libraries

this demand. These books should be provided locally in school and public libraries where it is at all possible. As a high school equips its domestic science department and its chemical laboratory, so should it consider the library as essential equipment.

Expressions of appreciation come from many of our traveling library borrowers. It helps along the work of the day when the morning's mail brings letters which tell us that they were pleased with the selection of books and wish another traveling library. Of all recent letters none has cheered us more than this very spontaneous one written under date of November 10, 1924.

Public Library Commission,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Dear Madam: We received your books about two weeks ago. I read many of them and enjoyed them very much.

I thank you very much that you let us have them. We are trying to keep them neat and clean, so other little boys and girls may enjoy them as I did.

Yours very respectfully,

Signed.....

The teacher of Iona, who wrote the above letter, says: "This letter was written by one of my little fifth graders, with very little help. It expresses the sentiment of the whole school."

Reference

The increase in loans to individuals seems more than the normal expansion which one might expect in any work that has not reached the height of its usefulness. We can account in part for the increase in requests from club women, teachers, ministers, debaters, those taking extension courses, merchants, farmers, housewives and small boys. Patrons of the commission make its service known to their friends who in turn apply for books. In addition to a normal growth of this kind is an appreciable increase in the variety of subject matter requested. Topics for study include Americanization, boy scouts, child welfare, the church, citizenship, family budget, illiteracy, immigration, laws relating to women, movie censorship, parent-teacher association and the world court. Requests for material on these subjects are many times repeated. Besides these are the continued calls for art, drama, modern

, music, Nebraska authors and resources, with many
ttering request on topics of a lighter trend.

ny interesting contacts are created by way of our
ence loans. The individual borrower often becomes
nd who brings us her problems and her confidence.
ther giving the ages and characteristics of her three
the eldest of whom is going astray, appeals to us
elp her "save her boys." A recent letter from a
woman, who has been a steady patron, reads: "You
helped to make me a better woman and you have
better men of my boys." "Her boys" are the ranch-
employed upon the estate.

other cause for growth in individual loans is attribu-
to the arrangement with the University Extension
rtment whereby the commission supplies reference
rial for their courses. Registration constantly in-
es, courses are being added, until this phase of the
is by no means negligible. It is our custom to render
ce outside Nebraska in only exceptional cases, but
the extension registrants it seems necessary to follow
wanderings with the material needed. By this means
books and pamphlets have been sent to each of
following states: Arkansas, California, Colorado,
, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississ-
Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsyl-
, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin and
ming.

thin our borders, requests for reference material
come from 535 communities, located in 92 counties.
only county not served during the biennium is Banner.
nt of towns served Lancaster leads, loans having
made to 16 communities within the county. Next
ie are Cass and Custer 15, Saunders 14, Thayer 13,
y and Gage 12, Holt and Knox 11, and Buffalo 10.

selecting books to answer the demands, an effort is
to keep a balance in the traveling libraries and open
collections. For adult traveling libraries we aim to
such fiction as "deserves taking home to the family." In
the open shelves, we buy a limited amount of fiction
literary distinction, in anticipation of use for book
ws. The juvenile traveling libraries consist of con-
tive titles, the tried and easy being duplicated many
. The open shelves contain some of the beautiful
ns of old and new favorites. We buy generously
rs' and girls' books because the commission is supply-

Book Collection

Institutional Libraries

ing reading matter for so many school children who have almost no other chance to know good books. It is a pleasure to buy for children who neither know nor demand the latest and best seller. The open shelf collection from which the reference requests are answered covers all classes of books. Effort is made to anticipate requests on timely topics.

We continue to supplement the commission collection of 26,000 odd volumes by borrowing from the University Library, the Legislative Reference Bureau and other sources of supply upon the campus.

In 1912 the Library Commission was given full authority for the selection of books and supervision of libraries in the state institutions under the Board of Control. The building of these libraries presents a special problem for each type of institution and the experience of twelve years under the present system shows the advantage over the old plan. Instead of disorganized collections of books, largely donated, orderly libraries have been established of well-selected, wholesome books on all subjects and suited to each type of inmate. The superintendents say that these libraries have exerted an important influence for the moral and educational work of the institutions. The following tribute from one of the superintendents is typical: "I wish to express my hearty approval of the splendid work of the library commission. The books which we have received have been a potent factor in our effort for higher standards in our management. They have been wisely selected to meet the various needs of the boys. I hope that this work so splendidly begun will be continued and enlarged."

The state hospital at Ingleside is one to which we refer with peculiar gratification. Because the superintendent, Dr. W. S. Fast, believes in books as a therapeutic agency he has made the library a sort of community center of the institution where patients and employees go regularly for their books. For five years it has been proving the advantage of a large, cheerful, centrally-located room over the crowded quarters shared with the switchboard. Dr. Fast has felt the importance of the work to such a degree that he has given us the services of a librarian. Mrs. O'Meara faithfully assists in getting the right book to the right person. In no month does the Ingleside circulation fall below 300 volumes. Sometimes it reaches 400. With but two or three exceptions, books are to be found on every ward.

Another type of institution in which we feel that the usefulness of books is proved is the penitentiary. The men read biography, travel, history, essays, poetry, ethics, religion, as well as fiction. They ask for technical books along many lines. Some of the subjects in which the men are interested are accounting, advertising and selling, blacksmithing, business employment, business letters, carpentry, cement and concrete, dairying, engineering, drawing, farm management, fertilizers and crops, foundry work, fruit growing, gasoline engines, industrial chemistry, iron and steel, journalism, machine design, motor trucks, photography, plumbing, poultry, printing, road construction, sheep raising, steam and hot water heating, steam power, the tinsmith, traction farming and woodwork. Not long after supplying a particularly large consignment of books covering many of the above subjects there came a letter from the librarian saying, "Thank you heartily for all the technical and mechanical books sent. They are thoroughly appreciated and all in circulation."

Institutions of an educational nature appreciate the books furnished by the library commission. The following letter came recently from Mr. Booth, superintendent of the School for the Deaf: "The books received from time to time by our school, through the generosity of the Nebraska Library Commission, are a source of much pleasure as well as profit to our pupils. They are well selected and they admirably fit our needs, especially for reading matter for our younger children. Besides the books, we also receive regularly 21 periodicals, the latter for the pupils' reading room. Reading by the deaf makes to an unusual degree for education and culture, for, depending wholly upon their sight for language communication, they must get thought through reading if they get it at all."

Along with other field work a curtailment of visits to the institutional libraries has been necessary. While this is to be regretted there seems to us less urgent need for the visits of a supervising librarian than for the service of a librarian in each institution. The books might be made much more effective could more time be given locally to their care and circulation. This statement is substantiated in the case of those institutions which are putting the library on a similar footing with other departments.

The secretary of the commission is a member of the Institutional Library committee of the American Library Association. This committee held a conference in Chicago in 1923 in connection with the A. L. A. midwinter meeting.

At this time a representative of one of the large eastern foundations was present due to an interest in the prison libraries of the country.

Publicity

With a heavy mail at hand, it seems that the library commission is a well-known department of the state. Then we find some one at our very doors who scarcely knows of our existence and we realize that we are not widely advertised. The commission has no regular means of publicity. Funds do not allow the publication of a bulletin as in the library commissions of many states. However, we believe in publicity and use available means to become known. The Associated Press and other similar agencies occasionally give us mention. An effective method of reaching the club women is by articles in the Federation Bulletin. By the courtesy of the editor, Mrs. W. E. Minier, the library commission has been given space in recent issues. Just among ourselves the circular letter is a medium of publicity.

Another means of making the work and purposes of the commission known is by the participation of the secretary in programs of other organizations. She can give but limited time to such, but her belief in cooperation leads her to accept some invitations to speak to organized groups. Besides talks to a number of women's clubs, she has had a part in state and district meetings of the Federation, gave papers at district and state Nurses' conferences, talked on children's books on several occasions and will assist on Parent-Teacher Association programs.

The omission of the Library Commission from Governor Bryan's budget in 1923 resulted in wide publicity for the commission. Words of approval came from many individuals from all over the state and organized support was thereby given by the Federation of Women's Clubs and the League of Women Voters.

Needs

In the preceding pages, we have hinted at the needs of the state for the services of the library commission. We wish to speak specifically of those needs.

The field work has been mentioned; the number of established libraries is given elsewhere. It is also stated that most of the towns in Nebraska which are large enough to maintain libraries are now taxing themselves for this purpose, though much is to be desired to make that support adequate. From this statement it may seem that there remains no need for field work. As a matter

of fact it is a branch of the work which presents a pressing need. Many of the libraries are not cataloged. Changes in librarians and library boards create conditions which call for help. Every library should be visited at least once during a biennium for friendly encouragement, if not in answer to specific call. To recently organized libraries it is often expedient to make several visits within a biennial period. To some libraries these visits should be of two or more weeks in duration. There is always a waiting list of visits to be made. Though most people seem charitably minded toward us, delay in answering such calls is neglect of legitimate commission activity. We admit the neglect but we do it without apology. It is impossible in view of the cut in appropriation, which necessitated the reduction in the staff, to answer the field requests or to anticipate such needs.

Nebraska is a rural state of great distances. There are stretches of country where the population is scattered and the people are many miles from a library center. A survey has shown that more than three-fifths of the 1,296,000 people of Nebraska are without local library facilities. A growing number of these people is looking to the library commission for books. In the face of a 64% increase in requests, the commission is operating on a book fund one-third less than that of the preceding biennium, it having been reduced by the last legislature from \$6,000.00 to \$4,000.00.

To help meet the state need, our legislative estimate includes a request for more money to buy books. However, to use such an increase, we feel that we need more help to take care of it. The secretary does and should do the selecting of books but she should not have to give her time to their mere mechanical preparation for circulation. One who has no acquaintance with the processes of ordering, checking, accessioning, pocketing, carding, cataloging, replacing and preparing for rebinding has but a vague idea of the actual time necessary to get books ready for the borrower. Aside from the cataloging, which is done by the reference librarian, most of this work could be done by clerical help. Having no stenographer and student help but a limited number of hours, much detail of book preparation falls to those whose time is needed for other branches of the work.

The maintenance fund of the budget has also been reduced. It is possible to take care of running expenses but there is not enough money to cover the cost of visits to

libraries asking and needing assistance.

In view of these needs, the library commission is submitting a request for an appropriation which will allow for the addition to the staff of a field agent and a stenographer. Request is being made for an increase to meet maintenance needs. We are asking for a restoration to the former book fund, plus an increase to cover normal expansion. An additional amount is being asked for the institutional libraries in order to supply the growing inmate population with books and periodicals. The present biennial fund of \$5000.00 is divided among sixteen institutions instead of the thirteen of a few years ago.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There are 126 free public libraries in Nebraska. Four of these have been added during the past two years. They are at Gordon, Long Pine, Mitchell and Wahoo. Since Wahoo has come within the fold, there are but two towns above a population of 2,000 which do not have tax-supported libraries. These are Ord and South Sioux City, both of which have association libraries. We have worked and had reason to expect to list Ord by this time but no levy for the support of their library has as yet been made by the town. It is necessary to report one library as withdrawn from the list. Several years ago the township including Sargent made a library levy. Following this, effort was made to assist in organization, but conditions have seemed unfavorable to establishment. They now report a lapse of levy.

Visits of organization have also been made to Shickley, Stratton, Trenton and Wauneta, in the interest of association libraries. Battle Creek has recently organized a library under the auspices of the woman's club. The list of association libraries is given on another page.

The general status of the public libraries of Nebraska is but little changed since our last report. In some towns the levy has been raised. In others we regret to say that it has been slightly lowered.

Seventeen towns have reached, by tax, incomes of \$1.00 per capita which is considered by A. L. A. a reasonable minimum revenue.

Towns having reached \$1.00 per capita, by taxation:

Bloomfield	Lexington
Clarks*	Loup City*
Clay Center	Madison
Cozad	Merna*
Geneva	Orleans*
Guide Rock	Shelton*
Hartington	Stanton
Harvard	Wayne
Hebron	

Towns which have come within \$100.00 of \$1.00 per capita,
by taxation:

Arcadia*	Humboldt	
Fairfield	Sutton	
Falls City	Table Rock	
Friend	Gothenburg	Wausa*

*Those which are starred are township libraries, the population considered being that of the unit taxed.

Several other towns fall but little short of the above measure. Weeping Water, from combined sources of revenue, has reached this mark.

As for several years past there is almost no library building program in Nebraska. Two years ago we reported three new buildings, making 68 Carnegie libraries and 13 from other sources. There is one new building to report for this biennial period. Arnold has nearly completed a \$20,000.00 library made possible by a \$17,500.00 bequest of Mrs. Sarah O. Finch. The building is a memorial to Mrs. Finch and her husband, Ephriam S. Finch, early pioneers of Custer county. Arnold being a township library, this promises to be a center of usefulness as well as beauty.

Nebraska Wesleyan University, of University Place, dedicated a beautiful new library building in June, 1924. The building cost \$75,000.00. Of this amount \$25,000.00 was given by Mrs. Rachel Ann Lucas, for whom the library is named. Friends of the librarian, Miss Langdon, rejoice with her in this change from the former location of the library to the attractive and workable quarters of the new building.

Another building deserving mention is the new \$3,500,000 Technical High School of Omaha, of which the library under the capable librarian, Miss Ingles, is an important part. Due to the vision of the principal, Mr. Dwight H. Porter, the library functions as the center of the entire system.

Buildings:

To the list of school libraries has been added that of the Omaha north high school.

Occasionally inquiry comes to this department, relative to Carnegie grants for library buildings, from a few towns which neglected the earlier opportunity and from those more recently organized. In this connection we publish here a letter of July, 1923, from Dr. W. S. Learned: "The Carnegie Corporation has definitely discontinued all appropriations to towns and cities for library buildings. No exceptions whatever are made to this policy and even when circumstances are most urgent it is quite useless to apply here.

The Corporation has by no means abandoned its interest in library service but it feels that in so far as buildings are concerned, its work has been accomplished."

Gifts

The reported gifts to libraries of Nebraska for 1923 are as follows: To Alliance, Arnold, Aurora, Broken Bow, David City, Falls City, North Platte, Plattsmouth, Rushville, Seward, Tekamah, Wakefield, Wymore, York, Doane College and the State Historical Society was given an aggregate of 2,051 volumes, valued at \$2,362.00. Gifts of money and donors are:

Broken Bow	Woman's Club.....	\$160.00
	P. E. O. Chapter.....	10.00
Rushville	Eastern Star Chapter.....	102.00
Seward	Fred K. Babson	500.00
York College	Guy F. Buswell	100.00

The Kearney public library received one of his paintings by Lawton Parker, valued at Munich in 1905 at \$3,000.00.

The Woman's Club of Dundee gave to the library commission 100 volumes, most of which were recent books of fiction which had formed the basis of their study. A few of these were retained by the commission as the best source of distribution. The greater part was divided among a few newly organized libraries. In behalf of all who shared in this gift we wish here publicly to express appreciation.

Legislation

The only library legislation of the forty-second session of the Nebraska legislature was to repeal that part of the law in section 3188, relating to directors, making three constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This was enacted merely to correct a previous oversight.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

It again becomes our duty to report that Nebraska has no county libraries. How much failure to establish such is due to general economic conditions and how much it is due to the lack of a field worker who might help the people realize the advantage of county library service, it is difficult to say.

While the need of free county library service must be felt by the residents of a county in order to bring the matter to a successful vote at a general election, we believe that visits from a member of the commission staff would help to create interest looking to the establishment of a county library which we deem the eventual and ideal solution of the problem of getting books to our people who need and desire them.

Many of our municipal and township libraries are not well enough financed to serve those within their taxed limits. There are many beyond those limits who are just as eager for books, as requests coming to our department bear evidence. In a paragraph telling of our reference loans there are listed a few counties into all or nearly all of whose towns the commission is sending books. May these not be logical localities for making the county the unit of library organization? This would allow the library commission to be so much the more available to people in other parts of the state.

There are many who are far removed from library privileges. In 28 counties in Nebraska there are no free public libraries and 19 counties have no local library facilities whatever.

Proposed assistance in promulgating the county library idea comes from the International Harvester Company. It is their custom to send into certain localities representatives of the company who speak on various agricultural and community topics. They now suggest making the county library one of these subjects. Their cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

There are two professional organizations of which our librarians may become members, the Nebraska Library Association and the American Library Association. Every librarian in the state should be affiliated with the N. L. A. because of the benefit to her and her library and for the help which she can give to the organization. We consider

this not only a professional privilege, but an obligation. It is also desirable to have library boards or individual members thereof belong to the state association.

The A. L. A. membership committee has for its slogan "10,000 MEMBERS BY 1926." Such a membership will enable the association to give more vital and valuable professional service to each member and to the library movement. A type of membership is provided for every type of library worker in the country. As a member of the A. L. A. membership committee, the secretary of the library commission sent a circular letter to all librarians and library boards explaining these types of membership. An increase of 17% in members followed this appeal. There are others who should become members of the national organization. Please ask us or A. L. A. headquarters for desired information. Application for membership may be sent to the library commission or to the A. L. A. Secretary, Mr. Carl H. Milam, 86 East Randolph Street, Chicago.

As organizations furnish an opportunity to be affiliated with other librarians, so the conferences of these associations provide a chance to meet with those who have like interests. Again we urge attendance upon our annual N. L. A. meetings. Those who attend regularly feel that they cannot do without the help thereby given.

It is desirable for any who can, to attend the A. L. A. meetings. Most of our librarians are unable to do so because of distances. However, it is possible for many to attend regional A. L. A. conferences. Such a meeting was held in St. Joseph, Missouri, in 1922. So manifest was the interest and so great the help that inquiries have been made regarding another regional meeting. In October, 1924, at the N. L. A. conference, an invitation was accepted by Nebraska to join Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri and South Dakota at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1925. In the event of this meeting, which is advantageously located, we shall expect a large representation from Nebraska.

The 1923 N. L. A. meeting was held in Lincoln, Miss Horne of the city library being president and hostess. Mr. Chalmers Hadley, then of the Denver public library, was our honored guest. He spoke to us on "Changing Fashions in Books." In 1924 the N. L. A. met in Omaha, Miss Craig, reference librarian of the University library being president. Mr. Milam, Secretary of the American Library Association, gave a splendid address on "The

Library and Adult Education." He also talked informally at an A. L. A. chapter meeting, providing to all who heard him an enlarged vision and a renewed courage.

At the 1923 N. L. A. meeting a committee was appointed at the suggestion of the secretary of the library commission, the purpose of this committee being to formulate some plan for obtaining more comprehensive information on the status of the public libraries than is included in annual statistics sent to the commission in compliance with the law. The committee, now known as the Committee of Five, consists of Miss Tobitt, Miss Horne, Miss McQuaid, Miss Jennings and Miss Williams. In February a questionnaire was sent out by the committee. This included items relating to income and budget, board meetings, report to council, use of Booklist and other approved lists, subscription to professional periodicals, membership in and attendance upon library associations, state and national. Nothing was included which might not reasonably be met by nearly any library of the state. The results of the questionnaire were tabulated and they furnished the basis of discussion at the 1924 N. L. A. meeting, with Miss McQuaid as leader.

The committee is continued for another year. It will work out some means of recognition of existing standards and will formulate some scheme for friendly competition looking to certain grades of standardization.

We wish to thank the librarians for answering the questionnaire so promptly and also to express appreciation for the work of the committee. Members of the Omaha staff and Miss McQuaid deserve a special word for the great amount of work done in tabulating the data received.

From time to time, district library meetings have been held in different parts of the state. These one-day meetings are especially valuable for the librarian of the small library who feels a certain isolation in her work in having no one in her own community with whom she can talk "shop." Also at the district meetings the attendance of trustees has been proportionately greater than at the state meetings. In May, 1924, a district meeting was held in Madison. Everyone was gracious but the weather man. In spite of him, we had a good time discussing informally a number of topics. It was a pleasure to be guests of the Madison library board and of the librarian, Mrs. Johnson, of whose work such good words may always be spoken.

With a regional meeting in prospect for the fall of

1925, it is desirable to hold a number of district meetings in the spring. Three towns, sufficiently separated, have already extended invitations.

LIBRARY INSTITUTES

When places of meeting have made it possible the library commission has occasionally conducted Library Institutes in connection with the N. L. A. meetings. Institutes were held in 1923 in Lincoln and in 1924 in Omaha.

There were 36 librarians in attendance at the institute in Lincoln. This was an increase of 14 over any previous year. They represented 36 libraries and came from 27 counties, the distance traveled one way being 4,276 miles. Mr. Wyer, Miss McQuaid and Miss Williams gave three lectures each, including reference work, government documents, statistics and reports, publicity, general problems of administration and aids to book selection.

In connection with the institute the commission had a number of exhibits. One exhibit of children's books attracted special attention. This was an outgrowth of a belief that there is urgent need to exercise care in the selection of books for boys and girls. The exhibit took the form of a house of undesirable books built upon the sand in contrast to a house of desirable books built upon firm foundation. Having visualized this contrast, approved lists of children's books were provided for distribution. That the campaign against undesirable books for children might be brought to the attention of all librarians of the state, a cut of the exhibit of book houses, printed and mimeographed lists, together with excerpts from letters by Nebraska librarians who buy books appearing only on approved lists, were mailed to all public libraries.

At the institute in Omaha, 33 librarians registered. Letters came from a dozen others who wrote regretfully that they were unable to come because of distance and attending expense.

Lectures on more technical subjects than have been included in any previous program were given at this institute. Miss Taylor of the Omaha public library gave two lectures on classification and one on the shelf-list. Miss McQuaid explained in full how to have a "live register." Miss Tobitt gave a talk on the business side of the library which every librarian in the state should have heard. Topics presented by Miss Williams were book orders, accessions and withdrawals, and aids to book

selection. One half day was given over to book repair. We were fortunate to have this opportunity to observe the Omaha system of binding and mending. Miss Duncan also demonstrated the Toronto method of mending. The institute included a visit to Omaha branch libraries.

We feel that exhibits are a valuable part of the institute sessions. Several were arranged for this year, part of which were provided through the courtesy of the circulation and children's departments of the Omaha library. The exhibits arranged by the commission included A. L. A. publications, a few commercial displays and printed and mimeographed lists for distribution.



COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1914-1916		1916-1918		1918-1920		1920-1922		1922-1924	
Requests Filled	Volumes Loaned								
3,342	51,372	3,125	50,943	4,020	58,540	6,213	77,861	10,165	86,230

SUMMARY OF LOANS

December 1, 1922 to November 30, 1924

Groups of Residents	Public Libraries	School and College Libraries	Study Clubs	Other Organizations	Individuals	Total
Requests Filled	Volumes Loaned	Requests Filled	Volumes Loaned	Requests Filled	Volumes Loaned	Requests Filled
231	13,947	208	15,594	549	32,289	2,311

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes accessioned to December 1, 1922.....	29,884
Volumes in library December 1, 1922.....	24,450
Volumes added from December 1, 1922, to November	
30, 1924	3,074
Volumes withdrawn to December 1, 1922.....	5,434
Volumes withdrawn from December 1, 1922 to No-	
vember 30, 1924.....	1,060
Volumes accessioned to November 30, 1924.....	32,958
Volumes in library November 30, 1924.....	26,464

EXPENDITURES DEC. 1, 1922 TO NOV. 30, 1924

	From Appropriation 1921-1923	From Appropriation 1923-1925
Books	\$1,603.26	\$ 3,039.60
Maintenance	938.79	1,919.06
Binding	487.37	583.55
Institutional libraries	1,774.34	2,407.35
Salaries and wages.....	3,237.10	7,004.25
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$8,040.86	\$14,958.81
		8,040.86
Total.....		\$22,994.67
Appropriation July 1, 1923 to June 30, 1925.....	\$23,000.00	
Expended July 1, 1923 to November 30, 1924.....	14,953.81	
Balance	8,046.19	

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Institution	Place	Population (Exclusive of Employees)	Volumes in Library	Circulation for Biennium	Expenditures for Biennium	
					Books and Periodicals	Other
Boys' Industrial School, Kearney.....		172	1,083	6,510	\$271.34	
Girls' Training School, Geneva.....		204	1,046	2,180†	298.84	
Home for Dependent Children, Lincoln.....		93	225	.....‡	58.32	
Home for Feeble-Minded, Beatrice.....		765	884	1,359†	225.16	
Hospital for Tuberculous, Kearney.....		96	709	2,362	269.28	
Industrial Home for Women, Milford.....		74	591	689†	149.09	
Orthopedic Hospital, Lincoln.....		107	1,360	.....*	174.01	
Penitentiary, Lincoln.....		624	2,972	41,588	587.24	
Reformatory for Men, Lincoln.....		204	996	4,083	617.66	
Reformatory for Women, York.....		83	.....†	.....*	23.85	
School for the Deaf, Omaha.....		172	1,535	2,664†	265.74	
Soldiers' Home, Burkett.....		295	1,365	2,070	189.42	
Soldiers' Home, Milford.....		131	590	.....*	68.65	
State Hospital for Insane, Ingleside.....		1,267	1,648	9,731	386.18	
State Hospital for Insane, Lincoln.....		1,021	1,003	.....*	327.32	
State Hospital for Insane, Norfolk.....		781	1,241	.....*	238.11	
All Institutions.....						\$371.97

*No report.

†Report for 16 months.

‡Loan from Library Commission.

§Too recently organized to report.

ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

Libraries in the following towns, financed other than by taxation, are under the auspices of women's clubs or other civic groups. Some of these are merely permanent traveling library stations. A few of these libraries will probably soon become tax-supported.

Adams	Elgin	Ord
Alexandria	Elkhorn	Oshkosh
Angora	Elm Creek	Oxford
Atkinson	Elmwood	Page
Avoca	Eustis	Palmyra
Battle Creek	Fairmont	Polk
Beaver City	Farnam	Potter
Beaver Crossing	Grant	Ruskin
Beemer	Gresham	St. Edward
Belden	Hardy	St. Paul
Belgrade	Hay Springs	Salem
Boelus	Hayes Center	Scotia
Bradshaw	Hemingford	Shickley
Brock	Herman	Shubert
Brownlee	Homer	South Sioux City
Bruning	Jansen	Springfield
Cambridge	Keystone	Steele City
Carleton	Leigh	Stratton
Chester	Lemoyne	Sutherland
Clarkson	Lushton	Tilden
Crab Orchard	Lyons	Trenton
Crookston	Mason City	Valentine
Culbertson	Minatare	Valley
Dakota City	Monroe	Valparaiso
Davenport	Mullen	Wallace
Decatur	Murray	Walthill
Deshler	Nemaha	Waterloo
Diller	Oakdale	Western
Dorchester	Ogallala	Wolbach
Edgar	Orchard	Wynot

Assistance in bringing the above list to date was rendered by the library chairman of the Federation, Mrs. Capps, in cooperation with her district chairmen. If other towns should be included, names of such would be appreciated by the secretary of the library commission.

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Institution	Place	Population (Exclusive of Employees)	Volumes in Library	Circulation for Biennium	Expenditures for Biennium	
					Books and Periodicals	Other
Boys' Industrial School, Kearney.....		1,772	1,083	6,510	\$271.34	
Girls' Training School, Geneva.....		2,04	1,046	2,130†	298.84	
Home for Dependent Children, Lincoln.....		93	225	.....§	58.32	
Home for Feeble-Minded, Beatrice.....		765	884	1,359†	225.16	
Hospital for Tuberculous, Kearney.....		96	709	2,362	269.28	
Industrial Home for Women, Milford.....		74	591	689†	149.09	
Orthopedic Hospital, Lincoln.....		107	1,360	.....*	174.01	
Penitentiary, Lincoln.....		624	2,972	41,588	587.24	
Reformatory for Men, Lincoln.....		204	995	4,083	617.65	
Reformatory for Women, York.....		33	.....†	.....*	23.35	
School for the Deaf, Omaha.....		172	1,535	2,664†	265.74	
Soldiers' Home, Burkett.....		295	1,365	2,070	189.42	
Soldiers' Home, Milford.....		131	590	.....*	63.65	
State Hospital for Insane, Ingleside.....		1,267	1,648	9,731	385.18	
State Hospital for Insane, Lincoln.....		1,021	1,063	.....*	327.32	
State Hospital for Insane, Norfolk.....		781	1,241	.....*	233.11	
All Institutions						\$371.97

*No report.

†Report for 16 months.

‡Loan from Library Commission.

§Too recently organized to report.

ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

aries in the following towns, financed other than by
ion, are under the auspices of women's clubs or other
groups. Some of these are merely permanent travel-
brary stations. A few of these libraries will probably
become tax-supported.

is	Elgin	Ord
ndria	Elkhorn	Oshkosh
ra	Elm Creek	Oxford
son	Elmwood	Page
s	Eustis	Palmyra
e Creek	Fairmont	Polk
er City	Farnam	Potter
er Crossing	Grant	Ruskin
er	Gresham	St. Edward
n	Hardy	St. Paul
nde	Hay Springs	Salem
is	Hayes Center	Scotia
shaw	Hemingford	Shickley
t	Herman	Shubert
mee	Homer	South Sioux City
ing	Jansen	Springfield
ridge	Keystone	Steele City
ton	Leigh	Stratton
ter	Lemoine	Sutherland
son	Lushton	Tilden
Orchard	Lyons	Trenton
tston	Mason City	Valentine
rtson	Minatare	Valley
ta City	Monroe	Valparaiso
port	Mullen	Wallace
ur	Murray	Walthill
er	Nemaha	Waterloo
ester	Oakdale	Western
r	Ogallala	Wolbach
	Orchard	Wynot

istance in bringing the above list to date was ren-
| by the library chairman of the Federation, Mrs.
s, in cooperation with her district chairmen. If other
s should be included, names of such would be ap-
ited by the secretary of the library commission.

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	Location	Vols.	Director
State Library	Lincoln	84,722	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Commission.....	Lincoln	26,464	Nellie Williams
Legislative Reference Bureau.....	Lincoln	*40,000	Edna D. Bullock
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln	60,000	Mrs. C. S. Paine

*Chiefly pamphlets and clippings.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	Location	Vols.	Librarian
Cotner College	Bethany	6,000	Earnest W. Lundeen
Creighton University	Omaha	31,000	Francis E. Fitzgerald
Doane College	Crete	15,425	Nora Hjelm
Grand Island College	Grand Island	10,210	Esther Hile
Hastings College	Hastings	9,000	Mrs. Ida E. Cappa
Lincoln High School	Lincoln	4,298	F. Thelma Eaton
Luther College	Wahoo	3,500	Mrs. Hulda Knock
Nebraska Wesleyan University	University Place	16,700	Ethol M. Langdon
Omaha Central High School	Omaha	13,000	Zora Shelds
Omaha North High School*	Omaha	1,047	Catherine Nichol
Omaha Technical High School	Omaha	12,500	May Ingles
Omaha South High School	Omaha	5,620	Clare Macklin
State Teachers College	Chadron	7,222	Frankie Needham
State Teachers College	Kearney	23,000	Anna V. Jennings
State Teachers College	Peru	35,170	Jessie J. Glass
State Teachers College	Wayne	10,800	Jessie F. Jenks
Union College	College View	8,900	Blanche M. Wood
University of Nebraska	Lincoln	185,000	Nellie J. Compton
York College	York	4,000	Harriet Lovell

*Recently organized.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	POPULATION	INCOME	EXPENDITURES			VOLUMES	CIRCULATION	PER CAPITA CIRCULATION	LIBRARIAN
			BALANCES	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	OTHER				
			HOURS PER WEEK						
1 Alsworth -----	1,508	\$1,200	\$500	\$169	\$362	24	3,811	14,600	9.7
2 Albion -----	1,978	1,200	480	301	178	16	4,600	11,433	5.8
3 Alliance -----	4,591	3,662	920	977	1,661	30	10,470	24,759	5.4
4 Alma* -----	1,498†	1,000	360	159	309	24	2,940	6,396	6.0
5 Ansley* -----	1,319†	1,200	225	408	32	12	2,200	11,037	8.4
6 Arapahoe -----	894	500	175	429	50	6	1,584	4,200	4.7
7 Arcadia* -----	1,125†	1,100	480	112	302	33	2,783	7,282	6.5
8 Arlington -----	695	300	104	100	—	6	1,600	4,930	7.1
9 Arnold* -----	1,692†	550	240	140	169	10	1,300	6,011	3.6
10 Ashland -----	1,725	1,000	264	295	344	15	3,441	9,211	5.3
11 Auburn -----	2,863	1,963	784	294	454	40	6,478	17,412	6.1
12 Aurora -----	2,962	2,500	720	393	1,189	30	6,018	16,779	5.9
13 Bayard -----	2,127	1,300	560	415	80	13	3,000	2,187	1.0
14 Beatrice -----	9,664	6,064	2,171	1,925	1,659	56	16,630	66,714	6.9
15 Blair -----	2,702	1,787	600	496	939	30	4,500	15,141	5.6
16 Bloomfield -----	1,431	1,500	600	254	505	35	3,042	7,796	5.4
17 Bridgeport -----	1,235	750	120	250	407	8	1,800	8,000	6.6
18 Broken Bow -----	2,567	2,020	900	482	1,026	40	3,305	17,551	6.8
19 Burwell -----	1,214	540	300	128	50	15	3,639	7,525	6.2
20 Carroll -----	448	175	50	20	72	5	1,088	—	—
21 Cedar Rapids -----	766	450	146	128	66	8	2,800	7,079	9.2

*Township library.

†Including township population.
Alma has become a township library within the past year.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Population	EXPENDITURES			Hours Per Week	Volumes	Circulation	Per Capita Circulation	LIBRARIAN
		Income	Salaries	Books and Periodicals					
22 Central City.....	2,410	\$1,200	\$720	\$291	\$68	21	5,400	13,440	Margaret Anderson
23 Chadron	4,412	2,390	960	573	577	21	6,306	30,362	Mrs. Elizabeth O'Linn Smith
24 Chappell	1,131	1,000	360	267	65	10	1,725	8,662	Mrs. Grace M. Busse
25 Clarks*	1,457†	1,700	480	137	467	29	2,204	5,020	Elizabeth McLean
26 Clay Center	965	1,091	432	34	480	30	2,271	5,574	Bertha F. Jessup
27 College View	2,249	1,300	583	472	499	36	4,293	7,081	Mary R. Welch
28 Columbus	5,410	4,902	1,375	1,196	1,316	33	8,264	31,573	Rose Riddell
29 Cozad	1,293	1,500	480	145	272	18	2,182	2,400	Edith Allen
30 Crawford	1,646	650	186	409	104	7	2,650	8,786	Mrs. Clyde J. Hornsby
31 Creighton	1,446	445	240	175	30	10	2,094	8,000	Mrs. Adela Horn
32 Crete	2,445	1,434	540	416	608	30	6,526	13,930	Mrs. C. F. Baker
33 David City	2,216	1,676	662	298	677	30	5,498	17,540	Mrs. Ella V. Myer
34 DeWitt	623	300	100	110	70	8	1,250	5,684	Rosa Koenig
35 Fairbury	5,454	4,096	1,627	1,038	1,149	51	9,126	40,422	Mary C. McQuaid
36 Fairfield	784	750	300	126	195	35	2,300	6,535	Mrs. Alma E. Ewing
37 Falls City	4,930	5,000	1,460	916	1,320	42	11,380	51,099	Mary Hutchings
38 Franklin	1,055	600	195	161	182	10	6,716	9,249	Josephine Peck
39 Fremont	9,695	5,893	1,500	1,490	2,921	58	12,760	55,753	Dorothée Mortensen
40 Friend	1,263	1,200	300	200	700	30	1,975	8,587	6.7
41 Fullerton	1,595	1,000	480	516	220	14	5,380	16,778	Mrs. Bernice E. Downing
42 Geneva	1,768	2,072	780	440	544	39	4,535	10,770	Mrs. Isabel Bixby

*Township library.

†Including township population.

PLACE	Population	Income	Salaries	Books and Periodicals	Other	Hours Per Week	Volumes Per Week	Circulation	Per Capita Circulation	Per Capita Circulation	LIBRARIAN
43 Genoa	1,069	\$400	\$120	\$200	\$55	8	1,800	4,555	4.2	Mrs. C. H. Shields	
44 Gering	2,508	1,361	572	645	139	15	2,500	20,500	8.1	Mrs. Ida Ripley	
45 Gibbon*	1,432†	1,200	420	525	22	2,898	8,187	5.7	Mrs. Florence H. Smith		
46 Gordon	1,581	692	240	270	82	18	1,936	6,720	4.2	Mrs. Frank Hummel	
47 Gothenburg	1,754	1,743	900	270	529	33	2,730	7,819	4.5	S. Frances Botkin	
48 Grand Island	13,947	5,700	1,883	1,125	2,195	51	8,950	43,800	3.1	Daisy Houck	
49 Guide Rock	611	743	300	139	290	18	2,310	5,984	9.8	Katherine Guy	
50 Hartington	1,467	1,812	420	975	791	15	7,000	4,800	3.3	Mrs. Kate S. Bryant	
51 Harvard	991	1,100	385	93	683	30	2,339	9,644	9.7	Mrs. A. J. Jenison	
52 Hastings	11,647	5,220	1,200	838	1,676	63	11,076	45,879	3.9	Mrs. Mae H. Barlass	
53 Havrelock	3,602	2,500	800	360	482	48	5,123	17,097	4.7	Mrs. Susie G. Smith	
54 Hebron	1,513	1,818	420	577	465	30	1,688	10,787	7.1	Mrs. Floy Talbott	
55 Holdrege	3,108	2,906	720	401	1,286	37	6,000	17,153	5.5	Mrs. Catherine Wills	
56 Hooper	1,014	232	173	83	18	9	1,900	2,600	2.6	Mrs. S. L. Whitcomb	
57 Humboldt	1,277	1,260	360	280	443	32	3,500	10,585	8.3	Mrs. J. K. Liggett	
58 Kearney	7,702	3,600	1,680	599	1,415	48	11,839	37,067	4.8	Mrs. Mary E. O'Brien	
59 Kimball	1,620	1,384	483	259	480	30	2,004	10,238	6.3	Mrs. J. H. Russell	
60 Laurel	830	480	360	756	7	8	1,634	1,800	2.2	Roy L. Lothrop	
61 Lexington	2,327	2,500	900	602	803	45	3,100	17,628	7.6	Mary Kelley	
62 Lincoln	54,948	29,336	12,094	11,064	7,867	72	62,044	387,823	6.5	Lulu Horne	
63 Long Pine	1,200	382	120	183	77	9	653	7,000	5.8	Mrs. M. J. Potter	
64 Louisville	645	243	83	54	9	6	1,375	2,787	4.2	Edith F. Shryock	

*Township Library.
†Including township population.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	POPULATION	INCOME	EXPENDITURES		HOURS PER WEEK	VOLUMES	PER CAPITA	CIRCULATION	LIBRARIAN
			SALARIES	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS					
65 Loup City	1,953†	\$2,648	\$800	\$603	36	2,509	13.591	6.9	Mrs. Dan McDonald
66 McCook	4,303	1,740	748	308	881	51	7,654	11.476	Grace Willets
67 Madison	1,735	2,676	900	577	550	36	4,488	16.962	Mrs. Anna D. Johnson
68 Merna*	1,363†	1,500	360	326	604	20	6,878	6,615	Mrs. H. K. Atkisson
69 Minden	1,527	1,000	480	301	47	24	4,563	11,100	Mrs. Helen E. Shusser
70 Mitchell	1,298	800	360	150	60	21	1,800	***	Mrs. C. H. Speth
71 Morrill	772	482	180	361	75	8	2,000	9,000	Mrs. S. J. Medlin
72 Nebraska City	6,279	2,400	900	500	830	36	8,000	17,509	Anne Stevenson
73 Neligh	1,724	1,200	400	217	589	15	4,395	13,476	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones
74 Nelson	955	200	80	90	196	7	2,030	5,509	Alice E. Ruddell
75 Newman Grove	1,260	675	240	368	133	16	960	5,532	Martha K. Thomassen
76 Norfolk	8,634	4,609	1,363	950	2,296	36	7,241	34,233	Laura Durland
77 North Bend*	2,449†	1,470	480	261	209	28	2,675	8,809	3.6
78 North Platte	10,466	2,529	1,240	488	904	42	7,944	36,491	Eleanor M. Wheeler
79 Oakland	1,356	1,200	300	210	120	12	1,726	6,733	Lydia Hill
80 Omaha	119,601	86,835	41,558	14,309	30,976	76	158,946	606,884	Edith Tobitt
81 O'Neill*	2,521†	1,400	740	180	492	25	3,111	6,754	Mary McLaughlin
82 Orleans*	1,414†	2,290	600	518	617	33	3,459	8,390	Dorothy M. Mann
83 Osceola	1,209	400	171	222	124	12	1,840	5,165	Ethel Blake
84 Pawnee City	1,595	1,150	600	340	611	36	4,000	11,885	Mrs. Flora M. Fullerton
85 Pender	992	100	26	85	***	3	3,000	4,000	Dorothy Smith
86 Pierce	1,105	1,000	330	435	251	9	3,004	5,605	Mrs. J. A. Andrew

*Township library.

†Including township population.

I. BUDGETS OF LIBRARIES (continued)

PLACE	POPULATION	INCOME	EXPENDITURES			VOLUNTEERS	CREATION	PER CAPITA	LIBRARIAN
			BALANCES	BOOKS AND PERIODICALS	OTHER				
87 Plainview	1,199	\$850	\$160	\$286	16	2,107	9,600	8.0	Mrs. P. H. Parker
88 Plattsburgh	4,190	3,900	1,070	703	2,026	33	13,500	35,183	O. Olive Jones
89 Ponca	1,014	450	96	...	187	8	4,683	9,188	Mrs. Mary Lipe
90 Ralston	465	300	120	33	81	15	3,100	1,200	J. T. O. Stewart
91 Randolph	1,338	407	180	110	117	8	2,389	4,653	Mrs. D. P. Montort
92 Ravenna*	2,019†	1,850	600	172	722	24	3,513	11,583	Nellie V. Clark
93 Red Cloud	1,856	1,400	720	150	550	30	4,518	10,386	Yola Swarts
94 Rushville	965	678	120	160	195	8	1,600	5,743	Margaret M. Young
95 Schuyler	2,636	2,072	650	616	603	30	4,849	31,266	Mrs. Alice Carl
96 Scottsbluff	6,912	3,000	950	528	525	30	6,000	14,945	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
97 Scribner	1,021	600	300	47	245	22	1,843	4,324	Anna Dietka
98 Seward	2,368	1,607	360	580	779	15	6,024	12,153	Janet Ashton
99 Shelton	1,612†	1,800	840	314	643	33	4,879	9,278	Mrs. C. B. Burkard
100 Sidney	2,852	1,818	600	578	621	27	8,076	11,000	Mrs. Constance Corbett
101 Silver Creek†	1,006†	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....
102 Spalding	878	683	.....	.....	.....	6	1,110	600	Mrs. Luke Finn
103 Spencer*	1,880†	1,200	300	386	557	13	2,800	7,618	Mrs. Frances Hollister
104 Stanton	1,487	1,700	600	262	610	30	3,801	9,125	Mrs. J. D. Rimore
105 Sterling	804	569	240	45	130	14	1,905	5,493	Mrs. M. E. Hollenback
106 Stromsburg	1,361	1,000	540	280	280	30	2,300	9,200	Marie Shaw

*Township library.
†Including township population.

‡No report received.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Concluded)

PLACE	Population	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Circulation	Per Circulation Per Capitalization	LIBRARIAN
		Salaries	Books and Periodicals	Other				
107 Superior	2,719	\$1,500	\$840	\$544	36	8,925	51,116	18.8
108 Sutton	1,603	1,600	480	250	215	33	3,105	6,980
109 Syracuse	889	596	120	153	184	10	2,328	5,228
110 Table Rock	750	692	103	272	25	14	777	3,391
111 Talmage	525	264	180	36	46	12	1,378	3,101
112 Tecumseh	1,688	700	420	175	115	33	4,000	9,250
113 Tekamah	1,811	1,700	600	204	966	30	3,956	13,865
114 Ulysses*	883†	750	180	350	67	7	1,275	4,500
115 University Place	4,112	4,000	1,525	387	1,983	30	10,278	51,945
116 Wahoo‡	2,338	1,500	360	185	....	12	1,550	2,500
117 Wakefield	1,114	802	240	218	296	10	4,334	7,639
118 Wausa*	1,039†	1,000	300	218	100	10	1,579	4,007
119 Wayne	2,115	2,255	792	563	961	27	4,010	15,872
120 Weeping Water	1,084	1,200	720	200	501	36	4,704	12,989
121 West Point	2,002	800	388	696	1,633	18	2,500	9,921
122 Winside	488	309	120	70	70	8	2,294	2,539
123 Wisner	1,210	323	120	....	40	5	1,426	....
124 Wood River	820	500	180	108	46	8	3,174	7,984
125 Wynmore	2,592	1,800	757	337	639	32	3,234	18,567
126 York	5,388	6,267	1,692	756	1,447	39	12,236	21,904

*Township library.

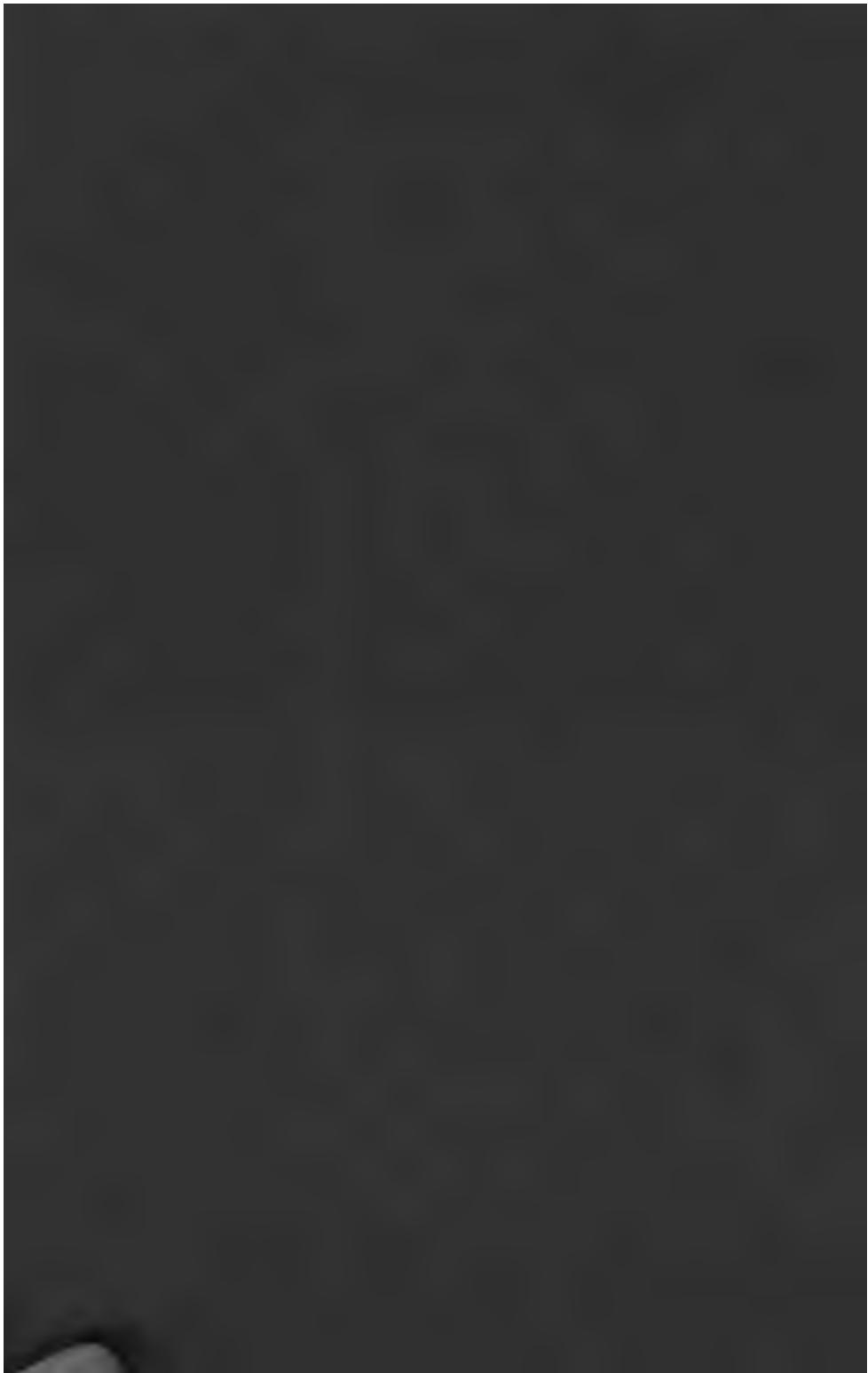
†Including township population.

‡Town recently organized to report fully.

A 3

Thirteenth
Biennial Report
Nebraska Public
Library Commission





Thirteenth Biennial Report

of the

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**Nebraska Public Library
Commission**

**Lincoln, Nebraska
November 30, 1926.**

AMERICAN PRINTING COMPANY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



"After all—there is nothing like A GOOD BOOK!"

1. Pub. Lib. Comm.
3-3-27.

Nebraska, Nebr.
June 15 1926

Dear Sirs

Will you please send me one
of the following books.

And Through the Looking-glass - by
Carroll

or

Six to sixteen - by - Ewing
or

Jack and Jill - by - Alcott.

Yours truly,
Wilma Rees

Help the adult of tomorrow by helping the child of today.

Nebraska Public Library Commission

EDITH TOBITT, President
Omaha, Nebraska

S. AVERY
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

GILBERT H. DOANE
Librarian of the University of Nebraska

J. M. MATZEN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

H. C. LINDSAY
State Librarian

NELLIE WILLIAMS, Secretary

MARGUERITE NESBIT
Reference Librarian

EDNA BOOTH
Clerk for Traveling Libraries

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Population	Income	EXPENDITURES		Hours Per Week	Volumes	Circulation	Per Capita Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals					
43 Genoa	1,069	\$400	\$120	\$200	\$55	8	1,800	4,555	Mrs. C. H. Shields
44 Gerling	2,508	1,361	572	645	139	15	2,500	20,500	Mrs. Ida Ripley
45 Gibbon*	1,432†	1,200	420	210	525	22	2,898	8,187	Mrs. Florence H. Smith
46 Gordon	1,581	592	240	270	82	18	1,916	6,720	Mrs. Frank Hummel
47 Gothenburg	1,754	1,743	900	270	529	33	2,730	7,819	S. Frances Botkin
48 Grand Island	13,947	5,700	1,883	1,125	2,195	51	8,950	43,800	Daisy Houck
49 Guido Rock	611	743	300	139	290	18	2,310	5,984	Katherine Guy
50 Hartington	1,467	1,812	420	975	791	15	7,000	4,800	Mrs. Kate S. Bryant
51 Harvard	991	1,100	385	93	633	30	2,389	9,644	Mrs. A. J. Jenison
52 Hastings	11,647	5,220	1,200	838	1,676	63	11,076	45,879	Mrs. Mae H. Barlass
53 Havrelock	3,602	2,500	900	360	482	48	5,123	17,097	Mrs. Susie G. Smith
54 Hebron	1,513	1,818	420	577	465	30	1,698	10,787	Mrs. Floy Talbott
55 Holdrege	3,108	2,906	720	401	1,286	37	6,000	17,153	Mrs. Catherine Wills
56 Hooper	1,014	232	173	83	18	9	1,900	2,600	Mrs. S. L. Whitcomb
57 Humboldt	1,277	1,260	360	230	443	32	3,500	10,585	Mrs. J. K. Liggett
58 Kearney	7,702	3,600	1,680	599	1,415	48	11,849	37,067	Mrs. Mary E. O'Brien
59 Kimball	1,620	1,384	483	269	480	30	2,004	10,238	Mrs. J. H. Russell
60 Laurel	830	480	360	75	7	8	1,644	1,800	Roy L. Lothrop
61 Lexington	2,327	2,500	900	602	803	45	3,100	17,628	Mary Kelley
62 Lincoln	54,948	29,336	12,094	11,064	7,867	72	62,044	357,823	Lulu Horne
63 Long Pine	1,200	382	120	183	77	9	653	7,000	Mrs. M. J. Potter
64 Louisville	645	243	63	54	9	6	1,375	2,787	Edith F. Shryock

*Township library.
†including township population.



Nebraska Public Library Commission

SECRETARY'S REPORT

December 1, 1924, to November 30, 1926

THE COMMISSION

The Library Commission consists of a board of five members, four ex-officio and one appointed by the Governor for a term of five years. There have been two changes in the personnel of the board within the biennium. As noted in the last report Malcolm G. Wyer, for eleven years our wise counsellor, severed his relations with the University of Nebraska, becoming librarian of the Denver public library. For a year his assistant, Miss Nellie Jane Compton, was acting librarian. In September, 1925, Gilbert H. Doane succeeded to the position of librarian of the University of Nebraska, by virtue of which he became a member of the Library Commission. Mr. Doane came to us from the staff of the University of Michigan library. Mr. Doane is generous in giving time to Commission problems and helpful in his advice.

Due to plans which necessitated long absences from the state, our president, Mrs. Margretta S. Dietrich, resigned her position in June, 1925, six months prior to the expiration of her term. We were thus deprived of our one appointive and only woman member. Mrs. Dietrich was a valuable addition to our number. Her keen mind, her appreciative interest and the charm of her personality were ours to enjoy. To the position left vacant by Mrs. Dietrich's resignation has been appointed one who is qualified by profession and experience to aid in the program and policies of the Library Commission. On June 2, 1925, Edith Tobitt, librarian of the Omaha public library, was appointed by Governor McMullen to complete Mrs. Dietrich's unexpired term. In the December following, Miss Tobitt was reappointed for a term of five years.

By virtue of his election to the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Charles W. Taylor, of

Personnel

the Teachers' College of the University of Nebraska, will become a member of the Library Commission January 1, 1927. Mr. Taylor will succeed J. M. Matzen who has been a member of the Commission since January, 1920. Mr. Matzen has the distinction of having missed no meeting of the Commission during the years that he has been a member. Another change in the personnel of the board will take place January 1, 1927, when Judge C. B. Letton, for twenty years an able member of the Nebraska Supreme Court, will succeed H. C. Lindsay as State Librarian. Mr. Lindsay is the senior member of the Library Commission having held his present position since May 1, 1904. During all the years of his administration Mr. Lindsay has been actively interested in the development of the Commission and has assisted in securing increased funds for carrying on its work.

The foregoing has to do with changes in the personnel of the board. There remains a fifth member, Chancellor Avery, who is second in years of service, having been on the Library Commission for seventeen years.

The board acts in an advisory capacity, the secretary and her staff carrying on the work of the Commission. The secretary needs the help of each member of the board. She wishes here to express her appreciation of the co-operation which she has received.

During the administration of Governor Bryan a decreased appropriation necessitated a reduction in the staff of the Library Commission and for two years the secretary had but casual stenographic help. Governor McMullen recommended to the last legislature an increase in the appropriation for the Commission. Due to the generosity of the legislature it was possible to restore a fourth member of the staff.

The present office staff consists of the secretary, Nellie Williams, who is also the librarian for state institutions, the reference librarian, Marguerite Nesbit, the clerk for traveling libraries, Edna Booth, and the stenographer, Lucille Grattan. Since the last report there has been one change in the personnel of the staff. In August, 1925, Grace Houts, who had been with the Commission for three years, resigned her position as clerk of traveling libraries, the staff and the state she served thereby suffering a distinct loss. The same spirit of service characterizes her successor, Edna Booth, who has been with us since September, 1925.

In addition to the above the Commission employs on part time two or three student assistants, as need requires and funds permit.

As stated in former reports "the aim of a library commission is to promote library extension, to encourage the founding of libraries where none exist and to aid in their intelligent and economical administration." Perhaps the fulfillment of this worthy aim is slow of realization but the activities of the Nebraska Public Library Commission are carried on with the goal of library extension to all the people of the state always in mind. The burden of the secretary's song is the improvement in service and administration of all existing libraries in Nebraska. To librarians and members of library boards who are co-operating in an effort to raise standards she wishes to express her appreciation.

The work of the Nebraska Public Library Commission is organized under three general divisions, field activities, a system of traveling libraries and reference loans, the building and supervising of libraries in the state institutions under the Board of Control. The policy in directing these three lines of work is as in former years. The attending growth is not phenomenal. However, there are always specific cases of peculiar interest. There is likewise a healthy increase in all of our activities. On the other hand there are constant contacts to acquaint us with the possibilities of additional service to the state and many reminders of the limitations of that service, due to an inadequate number on the staff and to insufficient funds to meet the demands upon the department.

Monotony seldom besets the Commission staff. From the opening of the morning's mail until the packages and boxes of books are on their way, the day is fraught with a variety which keeps interest at a high point. There are letters from within and without the state. They come from the A. L. A., from a near-by or far-away Library Commission, or it may be a Macedonian call. Usually there is a questionnaire at hand to preclude any possible leisure. Always there are questions of administration. Whether it be specifications for building shelves, aids to book selection, or how to budget the library funds, the secretary is always glad to render such help by correspondence as she can.

The Nebraska Public Library Commission is addressed in a variety of ways. It may be State or City Library, often it is Traveling or Circulating Library or Library

Aim

Activities

Extension Service and we have received two letters directed to the Library Mission while one letter was addressed to Missionary Williams. It is our desire that our work be imbued with such a spirit of service.

Field Work

It is again necessary to report a library field but partially surveyed. Only by regular visits to all libraries of the state can we be of assistance in keeping with our hopes for Nebraska libraries. With the increased demands of general administration and in all lines of our work, it is impossible to cover the field in a reasonable period of time. As a result some libraries are always on the waiting list. Specific calls for help are answered as promptly as possible. For the most part the people of the state are charitable in their judgment, realizing that the number on the Commission staff is inadequate. Because it is a vital need the members of the Library Commission are asking the Governor to recommend to the incoming legislature an appropriation which will make possible the addition of a Field Agent to the Commission staff.

To assist in organization, cataloging or in some problem of administration visits have been made to Adams, Arcadia, Axtell, Bloomfield, Clay Center, Comstock, Cozad, Genoa, Hastings, Holdrege, Lexington, McCook, North Bend, Oakland, Papillion, Randolph, St. Edward, Springfield and Wahoo. In connection with library meetings and as opportunity otherwise offered sixteen other libraries were visited within the biennium.

Visits by the Commission are made without expense to the communities receiving help.

Loans

Next to the field work of the Library Commission comes the circulation of books to groups and individuals. Reading matter is thereby provided for many who do not enjoy local library privileges and public library collections are supplemented by the loan of specially requested books. The requests for the past biennium were 11,055. These were filled by the loan of 103,675 volumes. Of this number, 75,684 volumes were in traveling library groups and 27,991 volumes were sent to individuals. No effort is made to secure a record of circulation from the traveling library borrowers but it is conservatively estimated at five circulations to a volume. This would bring the number of readers for these 75,684 books to 378,420. The total estimated circulation would thus reach 406,411. This is a 20% increase over the loans of the last biennial period.

Statistics should never take first place but they do bring a certain sense of gratification. By comparison, they take on an added interest. A summary of requests and loans for the biennium just closing is given on page 37 of this report. There is also a graph showing some comparative statistics to which we call your attention.

A Commission letter of information reads in part as follows:—"Books are sent out by the Nebraska Public Library Commission according to two general plans. There are traveling libraries which are loaned for three months with the privilege of extending the time. Usually a general group contains adult and children's books in about equal numbers. To any general traveling library books along special lines will be added on request. The number of books loaned is determined, in part, by the size of the community to which they are sent. There is no expense to the borrower except the transportation charges. A traveling library will be sent on receipt of an application card properly filled out and signed by at least three taxpayers."

Traveling libraries are sent to public libraries, rural and urban schools, clubs and churches, printing offices, county agencies, banks and stores, Y and scout camps. From these centers the books reach many people of the respective communities. The libraries travel over every railroad in Nebraska. They go by stage and truck to points far from the railroads. Always they are coming and going. It may be to a community in Lancaster county or to sparsely settled and distant parts of the state. It may be to a river town on the east or to the sugar beet country of western Nebraska.

During the biennium traveling libraries have been sent to 91 counties. Hall and Grant counties alone have not made application to the Library Commission for books. On page 37 is a summary of statistics showing the distribution as to groups to which traveling libraries have been sent. Lancaster county led in the number of loans, 37 traveling libraries being sent to 17 communities. Next in order are Custer 33, Gage 29, Cass and Thayer 24 each, Butler 22, Furnas 21 and Lincoln 20.

We often wish that we might follow the traveling libraries and see just how eagerly they are received. From the letters which come we know that to some they are a real joy. The following are extracts from a few letters received within the past two years.

"The libraries you have sent this year have been

Traveling Libraries

veritable life-savers. I think they have helped the Girl Reserves to spend thirty dollars in books for the school library."

"I would like to have you send me some primers for a little girl of five. And I want to tell you that because of the help you gave me through your choice of books her sister whom I started reading two years ago is now doing fourth grade work in school."

"We are keenly disappointed that we cannot procure a traveling library at once but will welcome the books when you can send them."

"I have three husky young Americans under five. I am a great lover of books, but I am too far from the library to walk there to get them. Will you allow me to have a box of books sent to me? I also have my brother's boys, three of them,—seven, nine and twelve—so I have a real need of books which I cannot now see my way to buy. Please . . . is all I can say. Please put in some good books on cooking, home serving and nursing, some books of fiction for the mister and Hans Brinker, Little lame prince or Heidi and oblige forever."

"We now have 250 books in our library but we simply could not exist without the Traveling Library. Please send as many juvenile books as you can spare."

"The books we have been getting are very fine. The children wanted to stay after four o'clock and have me read to them."

"May we have an extension of time on our traveling library? It is giving excellent satisfaction. Most of the books are in use all the time. We certainly appreciate the advantages which the library offers."

"I am a minister of a country church. It is well nigh impossible to get in touch with a library. I am informed that the state has traveling libraries. I should like to know about the possibilities and rules for their use. Your help will be gratefully received."

Reference

The Library Commission also loans books to individuals and clubs for special study, the number of books and the time limit depending on the needs of the case. The time is usually a month, however. Special loans are sent by parcel post, the borrower paying the charges to and from Lincoln. Daily Uncle Sam takes many packages of books addressed to a scattered clientele which we know largely by correspondence. During the biennium reference loans were sent to 552 communities, in 92 counties. Banner was the only county in the state which was not

served. Lancaster county with 274 requests filled, leads in the number of reference loans. Cass follows with 247, Gage is next with 212. Then come Custer 180, Saunders 174, Dodge 154, Dawson 152, Hitchcock 144, Valley 131, Webster 130, Saline 125, Scottsbluff 124, Thayer 121, Butler 117, Furnas 115, Fillmore 107, Antelope and Merrick each 104, York 103 and Otoe 101.

Besides being scattered our borrowers are varied. They include the "Doctor, lawyer, merchant, chief, rich man, poor man" of the familiar couplet, and even the "beggar man, thief" are with us for we have a few borrowers who seem rather greedy and some who fail to return their books.

Besides coming from all parts of the state, from people of all professions, from young and old, the requests cover a variety of subjects. They range in reality from "a to izzard", with many letters duplicated several times. For instance, there are calls for books on acoustics, bees, costuming, dentistry, etiquette, foreign relations, Girl Reserves, household budgets, illiteracy, jazz, Ku Klux Klan, librarianship, marriage laws, Nebraska, in her every phase, oyster culture, pageantry, quilt-patterns, radio, sculpture, tractors, unemployment, village improvement, world court, X-ray, the "Y" and zoology.

Our borrowers are appreciative and many tributes to Miss Nesbit's selection reach us. With the return postage often comes a word of thanks for promptness in sending well-chosen references. Not being a mere mailing machine without personal interest in those served, we are pleased when our "customers", as a small boy put it, send us messages like the following:- "I wish to express my appreciation for the promptness and thoroughness with which you have always answered my requests for help. References are so definitely indicated that the books are easy to use."

"I am sorry your pamphlets were not returned on time. If I can make it right by paying a fine or in any other way I will gladly do so. I think this Commission is a wonderful help for us backwoods women." This is an extract from a beautifully typed letter.

"The University Debaters' Annual was received and we derived much good from it. I am returning it to-day if our mail carrier can get through. I think the Public Library Commission is a wonderful help to those living so far from cities."

Here are a few other letters selected from the many.

"Please send me some literature on the subject of groceries. I am studying to be a grocery salesman."

"The Omaha Bee referred me to you. I wish to obtain a history of the Boxer uprising. I will send a draft at once on receipt of this information".

"I have just been given a Spitz pup and as I know nothing of the care of a dog, please give me any information as to food and training. I am unable to find a suitable name. I am a thirteen-year-old girl and this is my first real pet. I will be thankful for any information you may give."

"I thank the Library very much for the books. Nine people read *The making of an American*. The other book was used by the entire junior class as a reference to study the cost to the state of marriages of the unfit."

"I desire a good practical book on child training. My baby girl is now a year and a half old and I desire her to grow to be considerate, respectful of authority and able to obey cheerfully."

"I received my book and was glad to get it," writes young David. "I have read my story and now I am going to send it back. I am going to send postage due by stamps. Many thanks for it."

"I am returning the Jungle Book with the sincere thanks of four 'Freshies' of the English class. And add the thanks of one mother who has profited by your obliging kindness. Trying to hold a boy family on the trail does seem to require a helping hand sometimes. Thank you for yours. P. S. These 'four' are only one-fourth mine."

Institutional Libraries

The third activity of the Library Commission is its service to those who are confined in greater or lesser degree within institutional walls. This is a field of library work which is teeming with human interest. There are many instances of the part which books have played in the lives of people, as human as you and I, who for one reason or another are not free to come and go as you and I are. Whether it be a lack of the fifth sense, a crippled body, a distorted mind, a moral illness or merely the ravages of age which confines within institutions this portion of our people, we know that books have been a boon to many of the wards of the state.

In 1909, Charlotte Templeton, secretary of the Nebraska Public Library Commission, began considering ways and means of securing legislation to provide books

for the population within the state institutions. Such book collections as were then in the institutions were largely the result of indiscriminate giving. Very little money had been spent, the books were ill-cared for and not always used to the best advantage. Our library friend, the late S. C. Bassett, of Gibbon, became interested in a legislative appropriation for this work and helped in securing the passage of a bill whereby the Library Commission was given full authority for the selection of books and the supervision of libraries in the state institutions under the Board of Control. In May, 1911, began the actual work of organizing the institutional libraries by weeding out undesirable books, getting a knowledge of the regime of each institution and studying the types of inmates that books might be wisely chosen to fit their varied needs. Florence Waugh Humphrey did this work of organization and gained many friends by her sympathy and insight.

There is no need to theorize about our institutional readers and their interest in reading. Many specific instances of what books mean to them might be given. Obviously, there is more reading done by some classes of inmates than by others. More interest and local supervision is found in some institutions than in others. In fact, the work is hindered in some cases for lack of a librarian to see that books reach those who wish them. As we have stated in former reports, the vital need of the institutional libraries of Nebraska is a librarian in each institution.

The books in the penitentiary library are the most widely read. The circulation of books for the last two years is 30,140. The Commission also subscribes to 30 magazines thus providing the best of current periodical literature for the penitentiary readers. The men have just been furnished a newly-printed catalog for which they are expressing appreciation. We have been buying rather liberally for this institution in order to include a goodly number of replaced titles and to add books which have been specially requested. One man has been reading books on psychology with a view to writing on the subject. Realizing his need, he is now registered with the Extension Department of the University for a course in English. The following is quoted from his letter under date of November 11, 1926:- "I have just received one of the splendid new catalogs which you so kindly compiled and edited for us. Please accept my sincerest

thanks for the unstinted labor in preparing this catalog for me and my co-mates in exile." Another letter of November 12 reads:- "Just a line to thank you for your work on our new library catalog. In its entirety it shows judgment and consideration of the want it fills. Subjects grouped to aid the choice, well-bound, neat and handy. I am sure every one in the institution feels that he owes you a vote of thanks for your splendid efforts in our behalf." The librarian in charge writes:- "In appreciation of the great amount of work you did in preparing the new library catalog, I am glad to inform you that your efforts are appreciated by the men at Lancaster. Some of the men upon receiving the catalog looked upon it admiringly and turned the pages with eagerness in looking for some favorite titles. The catalog is filled with books on almost any subject one might wish for. Personally I am very grateful for your interest in the library and in the need of good literature."

There is no more appealing phase of institutional library work than that within the hospital for the insane. There are two reasons why the secretary has felt a peculiar interest in the selection of books for these patients. One is due to an actual experience of reading to various groups, trying out different types of books and finding both men and women appreciative listeners. Because of this contact with the patients the secretary was asked to appear on the program of the Nebraska State Nurses' Association in Lincoln in 1925. The paper read by her on "Books as tools" appeared in the September, 1926, issue of the American Journal of Nursing.

The second reason why the secretary has found hospital library work gratifying is because of the cooperation she has had in trying by means of books to bring a new interest into the lives of the patients. She wishes here to pay tribute to the late Dr. W. S. Fast, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane at Ingleside, whose passing on June 27, 1926, brought sorrow to so wide a circle of friends. Dr. Fast believed not only in the efficacy of books to relieve apathy but he looked upon them as a therapeutic agency. We have previously quoted him as saying that "the date of beginning improvement in many mental and nervous cases corresponded to the date the patient began reading." It is due to Dr. Fast's vital interest in the patients at Ingleside that we have there a large, attractive, centrally-located room for the library to which patients and employees have daily access. The library at Ingleside is one of the many memorials which

will be erected to the memory of Dr. Fast. With as desirable a location and a librarian on duty daily, the other hospital libraries might be as useful agencies as is the one at Ingleside.

In the institutions that are more or less educational books informational as well as recreational are selected. The very best books for boys and girls are chosen for the School for the Deaf and for the training and industrial schools. The superintendents and teachers are appreciative of the books which may thus be used to supplement their school work.

Books are a wholesome diversion to those within all the institutions. To some they are more than a diversion. They are a means of directing by sane ways to normal avenues of life. For those who will continue to be shut-ins and for those who will become citizens at large we believe in books for our institutional wards.

Again we register the need of the state for more service from the Library Commission. As stated elsewhere in this report, it has become an urgent need. With each biennium there are additions to the list of taxed and association libraries. All libraries should be visited if not for assistance in organization or cataloging at least to acquaint librarians and library boards with the state department which is maintained to serve them. It helps the secretary to meet personally those who are locally in charge of library interests. We hope that it is mutually helpful for us to know each other. But this is not stating the case strongly enough. There are libraries in the state which are failing their communities by their present systems of administration. This is a reflection upon the library cause at large as well as upon the department delegated by law to assist local libraries. It does not take great acumen for one to perceive that with the other demands upon her time the secretary can not meet all the needs of the growing list of libraries. The number on the staff is altogether inadequate to allow the time of one person in the field. So burdened has the secretary become it seemed to her in her travels over the state last spring that every meadow lark was calling, "Need a Field Agent! Need a Field Agent!"

One of our strong aides in trying to secure funds commensurate with the needs is the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs. As with former administrations so is the present the Commission's friend and helper. The

Needs

president, Mrs. W. E. Minier, of Oakland, is making assistance to the Library Commission a plank in her platform. The following resolution was thereby passed at the N. F. W. C. conference in Lincoln, in October, 1926:- "Be it resolved that the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs actively support the Nebraska Public Library Commission in securing, from the coming legislature, an increased appropriation to cover the special need of a Field Agent and to carry on more adequately the work of the Library Commission."

As stated elsewhere we are asking for an increased appropriation that existing and newly-organized libraries may be given the assistance due them. To meet the demands of normal growth we are also asking increases in the maintenance and book funds.

Publicity

The Library Commissions of many states issue bulletins at stated times. The only publication of the Nebraska Commission is its biennial report. This is supplemented by occasional circular letters sent out as need requires. This is a very casual means of publicity.

Other avenues of advertising come by way of organizations of allied interests. We are given space in *The Club Woman*, the official organ of the N. F. W. C. We are asked to explain the Commission's system of loans for publication in the bulletin of the Parent-Teachers' Association. The League of Women Voters is also our ally, materially assisting in securing the appropriation for the Library Commission during Governor Bryan's administration. The American Association of University Women also lists us as an agency maintained to serve the people of Nebraska.

The daily press gives the Library Commission occasional space. The magazine section of the April 18, 1926, issue of the *Omaha World-Herald* gave us a page write-up which was appreciated because of its insight into the limitations under which the work is carried forward. We are not unmindful of the good words spoken in behalf of the spirit in which we serve.

Monthly magazines include us in their columns. The *Woman's Home Companion*, *McCall's*, and the *Pictorial Review* make the Library Commission known to their readers and borrowers are thereby added to those who look to us for books. Instances like this make us feel that in spite of our twenty-five years of service we are unknown to many within our borders.

We use the radio as a medium of publicity, the proverbial "as free as air" suiting us admirably. The secretary was asked to give a series of radio talks on library topics of her own choosing. They covered a period of six weeks during the past summer. They were given at the Nebraska University Studio, Station KFAB. The subjects were The Nebraska Public Library Commission, Library Commission loans, Institutional libraries, A county library, The A. L. A. and some of its projects and Children's reading.

Many interesting returns came from this means of advertising. We believe so much in the opportunity offered that the secretary has agreed to give a second series of talks in the near future. The foregoing may well be classed as "hot-air" talks since they were given during the days of excessive heat of which we boast in Nebraska as the producer of corn to feed the millions.

In addition to radio talks the secretary has made the work of the Library Commission known by face-to-face talks to various groups. Among these were a Mothers' Vacation Camp at Arlington, P. T. A. organizations, University summer school class in children's literature, N. F. W. C. state meetings, Lancaster county Teachers' Institute and District and Regional library conferences. She has also given talks in observance of Children's Book Week, to Women's Clubs and to several groups of adults on books which might be named "As interesting as fiction."

Calls also come from beyond the state. Incident to a campaign against undesirable books for children the secretary appeared upon the program of the Children's Librarians' section of the American Library Association at Seattle, in July, 1925. She also gave the story of this book house exhibit before a joint meeting of Colorado and New Mexico at Pueblo in October, 1925. At a Regional A. L. A. meeting in Sioux City, Iowa, in October, 1925, the secretary was in charge of an afternoon session, giving in that connection a talk on Book selection. She also sent a paper to be read by Miss Nesbit at the meeting of the League of Library Commissions in Chicago in January, 1926. Preparation of these talks and attendance upon such meetings consume much time, but we feel that they are legitimately within our field, the wider contact being desirable to strengthen us for the work at hand.

In addition to talks, several exhibits have been prepared. It is our custom annually to arrange an exhibit for the

N. F. W. C. meeting. We had one at Scottsbluff in 1925 and one at Lincoln in 1926. The place of meeting made possible a more extensive exhibit this year in cooperation with Mrs. W. T. Fried, state chairman of Library Extension. Miss Tobitt and Miss Nesbit were also present to answer questions relating to library matters.

The Library Commission sent an exhibit to Omaha in 1925 in connection with the Teachers' Association. This was in charge of Anna V. Jennings, librarian of the Teachers College, Kearney.

The most extensive exhibit which the Commission has prepared recently was one used in connection with a series of six district library meetings held during the spring of 1926. We are pleased to record that a picture of one of these exhibits appeared on the cover of the Library Journal of June 1, 1926. A few days after its issuance a letter came from the president of the Florida Library Association asking for suggestions on the Nebraska method of conducting district meetings. We are glad if we can help ever so little in welding a link in the chain of library progress.

In answer to a request, an exhibit was sent by the Nebraska Commission to be used at a Regional A. L. A. meeting of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, held at Ft. Wayne, in 1925.

Public Libraries

Two years ago we reported for Nebraska 126 public libraries, supported by municipal or township tax. The number has now reached 134. The libraries added during the biennial period are in Axtell, Atkinson, Comstock, Lyons, St. Edward, Sargent, Tilden and Walhill. Sargent made a levy several years ago but no organization was formed. We are glad to report it among the township libraries. Comstock and Atkinson are also township libraries. There are now six libraries in Custer county, a municipal library at Broken Bow and township libraries at Ansley, Arnold, Comstock, Merna and Sargent. Broken Bow with a good plant at the county seat is geographically the center of the county. This seems a logical location for a county library and we believe that a demonstration would convince the citizens of Custer county that a single unit of service would greatly increase their library facilities.

Nebraska must again report two towns above 2,000 population without tax-supported libraries. These are Ord and South Sioux City. Both maintain association libraries. There are eight towns above 1,000 population

which do not have free public libraries, as against thirteen of two years ago. They are Beaver City, Benkelman, Cambridge, Curtis, Ogallala, St. Paul, Valentine and Wilber. Five of these towns have association libraries, supported other than by tax. Benkelman, Curtis and Wilber are without libraries.

The recently added libraries deserve special mention. Each has something to contribute and we welcome them all to the fold. Atkinson, Lyons, St. Edward, Tilden and Walthill have been so administered by fostering clubs that it was our expectation to have them pass from association to free public libraries. Sargent and Comstock as a part of Custer county became township libraries. Sargent is too newly organized to furnish a report. Comstock has made a creditable beginning. Library interest had been brewing there for some time, a tax was levied and funds were accumulating but no organization effected. In 1924 a P. T. A. was formed and the library idea developed. In October, 1925, the library was opened. To quote the librarian, "The library is 'going strong' and seems to be growing beyond our fondest hopes." The librarian traveled 354 miles to attend a district library meeting in 1926. May her kind increase.

The Axtell library deserves special mention. Summoned to this town of 385, with its one hundred windmills, the secretary was asked to help in organizing a library. Somewhat dubious that their ambitious plans could be carried forward she nevertheless gave encouragement because of the real library spirit existing there. Undesirable books were discarded, only approved ones were added and administration must be in keeping with that of larger systems. Axtell had one of the most satisfactory of library beginnings. It is a minature to which the attention of larger and older libraries may well be called. To our surprise it reports a small tax. It should eventually become a part of a county library system.

An upward tendency is seen in the status of Nebraska libraries, in the aggregate. During the last two years there have been increases of 4% in income, 7% in amount spent for books, 8% in circulation and 9% in salaries.

According to statistics received the following towns have reached or exceeded a library income of \$1.00 per

capita, the amount considered by the A. L. A. as a reasonable minimum revenue:

Arcadia*	Hartington
Arnold*	Lexington
Clarks*	Merna*
Clay Center	Orleans*
Cozad	Plattsmouth
David City	Shelton*
Fairbury	University Place
Fairfield	Wausa*
Gothenburg	Wayne
Guide Rock	Weeping Water

Towns having an income within \$100.00 of \$1.00 per capita:

Bloomfield	Silver Creek*
Broken Bow	Stanton
Friend	Tilden
Pierce	Wymore

*Those starred are township libraries, the population considered being that of the unit taxed.

There have been changes in librarians in 17 public and 5 school libraries during the two years just closing. Space does not permit individual mention. It is fitting to pay tribute to Margaret Anderson, of Central City, who died January 7, 1926, after 21 years of service as librarian. Among our number none was a more regular attendant at state library meetings. We could wish that her mantle might fall upon several of our librarians who have not been so faithful in their attendance.

After ten years of service as librarian of the Harvard library, Mrs. A. J. Jenisen resigned her position in February, 1926. We quote from a Harvard paper which says,—“That there has been real work done is attested by the fact that the Harvard library for the year 1924 ranked eighth per capita in the circulation of books in the state. The library is cataloged. Requests on many subjects are answered and the people of Harvard and community have an institution of which we are proud. Mrs. Jenisen deserves much credit for her efforts to build the Harvard library to its present state.”

We are always pleased to add to our list of librarians those who have library training. By this means will Nebraska standards be raised. The Hastings library is fortunate in securing a librarian who is a graduate of

the New York City library school, Nellie M. Carey, formerly of University Place, Nebraska. Miss Carey became librarian at Hastings October 1, 1926.

A unique celebration of the library's anniversary was observed at Clay Center January 26, 1926, on the occasion of its sixteenth birthday. From the station KMMJ, owned by the president of the library board, H. H. Johnson, Miss Williams was asked to give a message to the librarians of the state. Following the broadcasting a ceremonial was conducted at the library. Within a large wreath were placed three unlighted candles representing the past, the present and the future. The first librarian of the Clay Center library lighted the candle of the past, speaking of the days when Clay Center had no Carnegie building and the library was little more than a traveling library station to which the Library Commission loaned books. The light was carried from the past to the present by a patron who expressed appreciation of the service which the library renders. The representative of the present passed the taper to Miss Williams who, in lighting the third candle, spoke of the library's future opportunities and obligations.

Children's Book Week is regularly celebrated in a number of our libraries. As the late Dr. Stuart Sherman said, it is a sort of week of prayer and as such it has taken its place as an essential observance. The librarian from Loup City writes, "I have to observe Book Week now whether I want to or not. It went over big this year. The grown-ups seem to enjoy it as much as the children do."

Miss Nesbit had a part in the 1926 Book Week program at Wymore. The library is fortunate in having the cooperation of the Pennington Book Store which believes in the best books for children. A contest was conducted by the store this year, essays being written on "The book I like best." The prize winners were announced the evening of the Book Week program.

Miss Williams talked on children's reading to the Women's Club at Lexington, the president of the club being also a member of the library board. Posters in the store windows, a school contest on finding "Hidden Titles" and distribution of printed booklists for the grades were some of the library's part in putting over Book Week in Lexington.

Book Week

Buildings

Occasional inquiries as to Carnegie grants for library buildings reach this department. We print again Dr. Learned's letter given in our last report. "The Carnegie Corporation has definitely discontinued all appropriations to towns and cities for library buildings. No exceptions whatever are made to this policy and even when circumstances are most urgent it is quite useless to apply here. The Corporation has by no means abandoned its interest in library service but it feels that in so far as buildings are concerned, its work has been accomplished."

We are pleased to report new library buildings at Auburn, St. Edward and Table Rock. The story of each deserves to be told in greater detail than space allows.

The Allen brothers of Auburn gave to the library board a site and the use of the house thereon provided a building be erected within a given time. A campaign for funds began, community spirit was aroused and the Chamber of Commerce arranged for a system of five year notes. A house to house canvas was made. The Women's Club pledged \$1,000. The members of the library board and the librarian gave \$100.00 each. The P. T. A., a quilting circle, the W. C. T. U., the Chamber of Commerce, the M. E. Aid and many others were donors. The school children brought their offering. The librarian says, "The oldest girl of a large family who always looks hungry and I know is cold in winter said with pride that they had given twenty-three cents." Probably the spirit attending no gift was finer than that of a certain ex-soldier who wanted a part in the building because he had learned to use and appreciate a library during his University days in Lincoln. Inquiring of the Chamber of Commerce as to the size of gifts he was told that any amount would be acceptable. Though he was advised to the contrary, this young man mortgaged a war-bonus certificate and contributed twenty-five dollars toward the Auburn library.

In June, 1926, the corner stone was laid and in October the building was completed. The school children moved the books which were tied in packages convenient to carry. Policemen guarded the traffic, teachers helped to keep the lines in order and the children marched in, placing their packages in numerical order on the shelves. The Auburn library was dedicated Sunday afternoon, October 31, 1926. Mr. Doane was present and had a part on the program.

To the president, Mrs. Anna Gipson, to the librarian, Mrs. Lillian Mastin, and to many other people of Auburn credit is due for carrying persistently forward the campaign for a library building.

Interest in the library at St. Edward is so great that a building was erected by the town. A letter from the librarian reads:—"We are now located in our new brick library built by the town. The building is modern and we are very proud of it, as the library has been in operation only two years. The grounds have been landscaped and present a very fine appearance. We moved into the building August 26, 1926, in the rain but we were so anxious to get moved. The library board has voted a salary for the librarian. Heretofore the work was donated."

As in so many library beginnings, so at St. Edward the initial credit is due to a group of women who fostered the library child. That it seemed to the city fathers a goodly child is evident. May the child grow in stature and usefulness.

Here follows the story of the Table Rock library and its new building, as given by Mrs. A. R. Kovanda:

"In 1892 the business men of Table Rock instituted a library for the benefit of the community. It was housed over a period of years in more or less temporary locations. The next move of enthusiasm that rent the air with electric rapidity was the creation of Chapter Houses for libraries. Twenty-one women and one man were caught in the current. To electricity we look for strength and light. In this instance it proved to be a conflagration without any fire escape. We emerged short a chapter house but rich in experience. We said, 'Temporary defeat shall not daunt our courage.' And we were rewarded, for in 1916 came into existence the Altrurian woman's club, composed of twenty-six energetic women. They said, 'We must learn to give the best there is within us to our community. Such service can only be rendered through knowledge. Knowledge comes through books.' Then began the quest for books. Upon this altar of quest for knowledge many sacrifices were made. Because of untiring efforts to make prosper that which they believed to be for the good of the community, public sentiment for a library crystallized into a belief that a library is a necessary part of an educational system. After a time public sentiment began to wax strong for a suitable building to house its precious

collection of books. Then came the federation of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The Presbyterian church was for sale and the women of the church, having in mind the preservation of the building for some public welfare service, thought it a worthy cause to transform it into a library and rest room. The Presbyterian Ladies' Aid Society had a little fund of its own. They decided that the best thing they could do with their money would be to appropriate it to some purpose that would serve the community whence it came. Mr. Mayor, with the highest intention of doing good they bought the building and I wish now in a formal way to present it to the city to be used as a public library building and rest room. In behalf of the Ladies' Aid Society I deem it a privilege to hand you the keys of the church building." The story continues as taken from a Table Rock paper.

"The Altrurian club, the Community club and other organizations took up the work of transforming the church into a library and rest room. The next question to be met was location. Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fellers offered to donate ground enough to meet the needs and the offer was accepted. Then the work of securing the necessary funds was begun. Our citizens responded splendidly and the result is a beautiful stucco building. It is a splendid achievement; a monument to the devotion of our citizens; a credit to the desire of our men and women to give to our community life the culture of moral and educational development."

The spirit of service and the fine zeal found in Table Rock may be incentives to some other Nebraska town needing a library building.

Gifts

Small gifts are probably all the time being presented to libraries of Nebraska, but no list of large sums has been reported within the biennium. Wakefield alone seems to have a substantial library gift. Citizens there gave \$3,000.00 in 1926, the interest of which is to be used for books.

In connection with gifts to libraries the A. L. A. has recently issued a broadside called "Remember the Library." In part it says: "The American Library Association believes and declares that the community served is primarily and directly responsible for the financial support of the library, as it is for the support of its schools. We believe nevertheless that through the provision of endowment or trust funds, supplement-

ing those received from taxation, the work of libraries may be greatly enriched and improved. It is the kind of public service that the American Library Association especially recommends to the consideration of persons of means. Funds given for such purposes not only continue indefinitely to provide for the enlargement of the educational opportunities of the people, but they may also serve as a splendid memorial for an individual or a group, carrying a name identified with a service that continues through the years. The development of trust funds presents a vast field for constructive work on the part of library boards."

COUNTY LIBRARIES

The A. L. A. Council at the Hot Springs meeting in 1923, voiced itself as follows: "The American Library Association has viewed with interest the growth of the county library system and wishes to express its belief that the county is the logical unit for most parts of the United States and that the county system is the solution of the library problem for country districts."

Nebraska is a state of country districts. It has a law making possible the establishment of a county library. The law reads as follows:—"The city council of any city, the board of trustees of any incorporated village, the county board of any county and the electors of any township, shall have power to establish a free public library for the use of the inhabitants of such city, village, county or township, Provided, when the county board makes a levy for a county library, it shall omit from the levy of the library tax all property within the limits of any city, village or township in such county which already maintains a library by public tax: Provided further, before establishing such county library, or levying such tax the county board shall submit the question to the voters of the county, and a majority of the voters voting thereon shall have authorized the establishment of such county library and the levying of the tax. Such question shall be submitted at a general election only, and when so submitted and carried, it is hereby made the duty of the county board to include the county library in its next succeeding estimate and levy."

Nebraska has an undeveloped field in which county libraries would flourish, but there is no county library

in the state. Why not? We wish to call attention to the playlet "Why not?" by Harriet C. Long of the Wisconsin Library Commission. Apply it to almost any county in Nebraska and see if the negative has any substantiating arguments. Under the direction of Mrs. Fried, the chairman of Library Extension of the N.F.W.C. the play "Why not?" was effectively staged by the club women of Cuming county at the Federation meeting in Lincoln in 1926. In a radio talk on county libraries, the secretary of the Library Commission adapted "Why not?" to Burt county which lends itself well to the county library idea. Why not try it out? Why not make a county library in Nebraska the means of supplying books to everyone within the county?

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The N. L. A.

There are two professional organizations in which Nebraska librarians should become members. Every librarian in the state should belong to the Nebraska Library Association. The present N. L. A. membership is 111. This is a creditable number but it might well be increased. The same strong statement made by Miss Jennings on page 31 as to membership in the American Library Association applies to state membership. The secretary, Miss Nesbit, will be glad to receive the N. L. A. annual fee of \$1.50.

The Nebraska Library Association has held no state meeting since the publication of the last Commission report. In that time, however, there have been nine meetings of unusual interest. In the spring of 1925, district meetings were held at Beatrice and at Wayne. While the librarian and library board did well their part, the spirits of all were damped by the small attendance at Beatrice. Epidemic and rain combined to keep some away and we feel forced to confess a fear that indifference detained others. Weather conditions were better at the time of the Wayne meeting and a gratifying number of librarians and trustees was present to enjoy and profit by the meeting.

In 1925, a Regional A. L. A. meeting was held instead of the regular fall meetings of the states participating. The states joining in this conference were Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North and South Dakota and Nebraska, meeting in Sioux City, Iowa, October 14-16. By action of the American Library Association in 1922 such conferences were recognized as official A. L. A. meetings.

It was therefore our privilege to have present at Sioux City the president, Charles F. D. Belden of the Boston public library and the secretary, Carl H. Milam, both of whom addressed the meeting. We were also fortunate in having Dr. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, with us. He told of his visit to China as a representative of the A. L. A. An outstanding feature of the meeting was a program in which Lew Sarett read from his own poems to the delight of the audience.

Nebraska stood second in point of attendance at the Sioux City meeting, with 65 registrants. The N. L. A. president, Bertha Baumer, of the Omaha public library, was chairman of the program committee. The secretary of the Nebraska Commission was asked to arrange for one afternoon's program of the Sioux City meeting. This took the form of a library institute for the librarians of the smaller libraries. The program consisted of a talk on Administration by Clara F. Baldwin, Library Division, Minnesota Department of Education, Work with children by Grace Shellenberger, Davenport, Iowa, public library and Book selection by Miss Williams.

At the Sioux City meeting it was voted by the N. L. A. "to forego a state meeting in 1926, to hold district meetings in the spring and to concentrate on attendance at the fiftieth anniversary meeting of the A. L. A. to be held in Philadelphia in October."

Accordingly a letter was sent to the Nebraska libraries asking for invitations for meeting places. Responses came from Alliance, Clay Center, Fremont, Kearney, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte, Omaha, Scottsbluff and Superior. It was decided to hold meetings of one day each in six of the ten places mentioned. The places were Alliance, Fremont, Lincoln, Norfolk, North Platte and Superior.

We are indebted to many of our members for help in making these meetings successful. The president, Miss Langdon, of Nebraska Wesleyan University, presided at the Fremont and Lincoln meetings, the first vice-president, Eleanor M. Wheeler of North Platte at Alliance and North Platte, and Miss Williams at the Norfolk and Superior meetings. The secretary, Miss Nesbit, acted in her official capacity at five of the meetings, at four of which she conducted a reference hour. Maude Montgomery of the Lincoln city library had charge of the reference hour at the Lincoln meeting. The meetings were enhanced by the attendance and help of two

members of the Library Commission. At Fremont and Norfolk Miss Tobitt talked on Book selection and on the Business side of the library. At Lincoln and North Platte Mr. Doane delighted us with his "Story of the Book." We were fortunate in having Miss Jennings with us at North Platte. Interesting talks on Children's reading were given by Mrs. Reed of the Lincoln city library at Lincoln and Superior and by Miss Batchelder of the children's department of the Omaha public library at Fremont and Norfolk. To many others who assisted on the programs and to local librarians and library boards we wish to express grateful acknowledgment for their help and for courtesies extended to the members of the N. L. A.

Nebraska is a state of magnificent distances. Cherry county alone is twice the size of the state of Rhode Island. The combined area of Lincoln and Custer counties equals that of Connecticut. Accordingly, the attendance of 172 at the district meetings of 1926 meant that great distances were traveled. While some had to go but a few miles others had far to go to reach the nearest place of meeting. The total number of miles traveled by those attending the six meetings was 13,140. This bespeaks a sense of need and an active interest that is gratifying.

The N. L. A. Committee of Five, consisting of Miss Tobitt, Miss Horne, Miss Jennings, Miss McQuaid and Miss Williams, has sent the questionnaire on library standards to all public libraries for the third time. It includes items relating to income and budget, board meetings, aids in book selection, membership in and attendance upon library meetings. The answers to the questionnaire are to be tabulated and presented at the 1927 N. L. A. meeting.

The Education Committee of the N. L. A., appointed in 1925, consists of Miss Jennings, Miss Ingles and Miss Nesbit. This committee has done a creditable piece of work in the issuance of a bulletin, How to organize a school library, with Lists of recent books for the Elementary School, the Junior High School and the High School.

Mimeographed copies of the bulletin were distributed at some of the district meetings of the Nebraska State Teachers Association.

The A. L. A.

As a chapter of the American Library Association the N. L. A. is closely affiliated with the parent organization.

In the interest of membership we quote from a letter of Anna V. Jennings the Nebraska representative of the A. L. A. membership committee:—"As an earnest, energetic librarian you are endeavoring to make your library the best possible. Do you realize that in order to do this most effectively, you should keep in touch with the people who are furnishing the ideas and are making the standards that mean progress? You are receiving the benefits from the A. L. A. and the least you can do is to show your appreciation and interest by enrolling as a member.

The fact that your library or trustee is a member does not relieve you from your personal responsibility. The enterprising physicians of your community are members of the American Medical Association as well as the state organization. Is it not quite as important that you should show your loyalty to your profession by membership in the A. L. A.?"

Nineteen hundred and twenty-six is a notable year in the history of the A. L. A. In October it celebrated its fiftieth anniversary at Philadelphia. In speaking of this celebration the president, Mr. Belden, said, "The main object of the fiftieth anniversary is not to point with pride to past achievement but to bring to libraries the recognition they deserve and to aid libraries in creating a public sentiment which will make for a greater achievement in the future."

One might speak at length of the jubilee meeting and enthusiastically of the program. Space allows mention only of Dr. Bowker and Mr. Dewey, fittingly the central figures of the occasion, and of the delegates from twenty-five foreign countries who furnished so interesting a part of the program. Sixteen Nebraska librarians attended the A. L. A. anniversary meeting. Town, city, high school, college, and university libraries were represented. Miss Tobitt, Mr. Doane, Miss Nesbit and Miss Williams of the Library Commission were in attendance. A number of librarians from Nebraska contributed to the A. L. A. anniversary fund. Nebraska did not rank high in the amount given but the spirit in which it gave we believe was second to none. In some cases we know that even small gifts were made at a sacrifice.

"This jubilee year has brought to the A. L. A. a great gift. The Carnegie Corporation has set aside \$4,000,000 for library work. Of this sum one million is to endow

a graduate school of librarianship. Another million is to be used to aid other library schools. The third million is for general endowment of the American Library Association. The fourth million will be used in carrying on the general activities of the Association. President Keppel of the Carnegie Corporation, in explaining the grant, expressed the hope that this would enable the A. L. A. to develop more extensively the small town service. 'Of all his benefactions the one nearest Mr. Carnegie's heart was the small library,' said Dr. Keppel."

It is desirable for every librarian to become acquainted with the A. L. A. publications. Nebraska libraries might profitably have a standing order for these publications. We wish to urge the purchase of the A. L. A. catalog of 1926 which is an annotated list of 10,000 books. The editor says in the introduction, "We believe the catalog to be an excellent, authoritative compilation which will prove indispensable as a basic tool for libraries for some years to come." It is a tool which every library in Nebraska should own.

"One project of the American Library Association is the preparation of reading courses to help the library in its service to the serious reader. These courses are called 'Reading with a Purpose'. They are prepared by authorities in their respective fields, and are written in a popular but scholarly manner. On each subject a selected list of books is given, a list long enough to lead one afield in a line which interests him but not so long as to be formidable. The popularity of the 'Reading with a Purpose' courses is almost phenomenal. They are being used extensively in many libraries of the United States and a librarian from a foreign country writes, 'When I see such work being done, I realize how greatly the world of readers, thinkers and students is indebted to your country.' A few of the reading courses thus far prepared are English literature by W. N. C. Carlton, Some great American books by Dallas Lore Sharp, Ears to hear. a guide for music lovers by Daniel Gregory Mason, Our children, by M. V. O'Shea, Religion in everyday life by W. T. Grenfell The poetry of our own times by Marguerite Wilkinson, The United State in recent times, by Fredric L. Paxson, and The modern essay by Samuel Crothers. The purchase of these pamphlets by Nebraska libraries is recommended. The books listed can be bought by some of the libraries. The

Nebraska Library Commission will loan the pamphlets and the books to libraries that cannot afford to buy them.

Adult education is a project of the 'American Library Association which is being carried forward through a Commission on the Library and Adult Education appointed by the A. L. A. in 1924. In a recent report of the Commission it says that if it were to summarize its findings in one sentence that sentence might be: "Libraries have very definite responsibilities and very clearly defined functions to fulfill in the 'present movement for adult education." As a part of the whole Nebraska libraries thus share this responsibility to assist those beyond school age in the "continuing processes of education." The report says further: "Among national and community leaders there is a growing conviction that in order to insure the success of democratic institutions more adequate provisions for adult education must be made. There is abundant evidence of a growing demand upon those organizations already engaged in adult education. From the librarian's point of view, one of the greatest needs is an adequate book service to the students connected with these organizations. Libraries have, furthermore, an inherent duty in their own right to provide books and advisory service for those individuals who wish to enlarge their horizons, but prefer to accomplish this result through private study." By the latter means particularly does the Nebraska Library Commission have opportunity to serve. As an example we quote the following letter of April 19, 1926: "My attention has been called to the State Traveling Library by an article which appeared in yesterday's edition of the Omaha World-Herald and I am very anxious to begin a reading course under your supervision. I am employed in clerical work and have found little time to devote to reading. It is my desire to do some reading of a cultural nature. If you will take it upon yourself to send me the books which you think would be the most broadening I shall be very grateful to you."

We feel a peculiar interest in that phase of adult education which begins with the child. We believe that Nebraska libraries should provide the best in literature for the children. In this connection the Commission on Adult Education quotes from an address of Miss Effie L. Power in which she says: "Our task is to reach all the children, and having done so to establish per-

manent interests; to train them to use books and to love books; and to relate their use of books and their general reading to their lives. If we fulfill our obligations to the children we should have an ounce of prevention to offer against illiteracy, dullness, pessimism, loss of faith, lack of ambition and unhappiness which is well worth a pound of adult education as cure."

It is with this thought in mind that we reproduce as a frontispiece of this report the letter of Wilma who is forming so early in life a taste for good books.



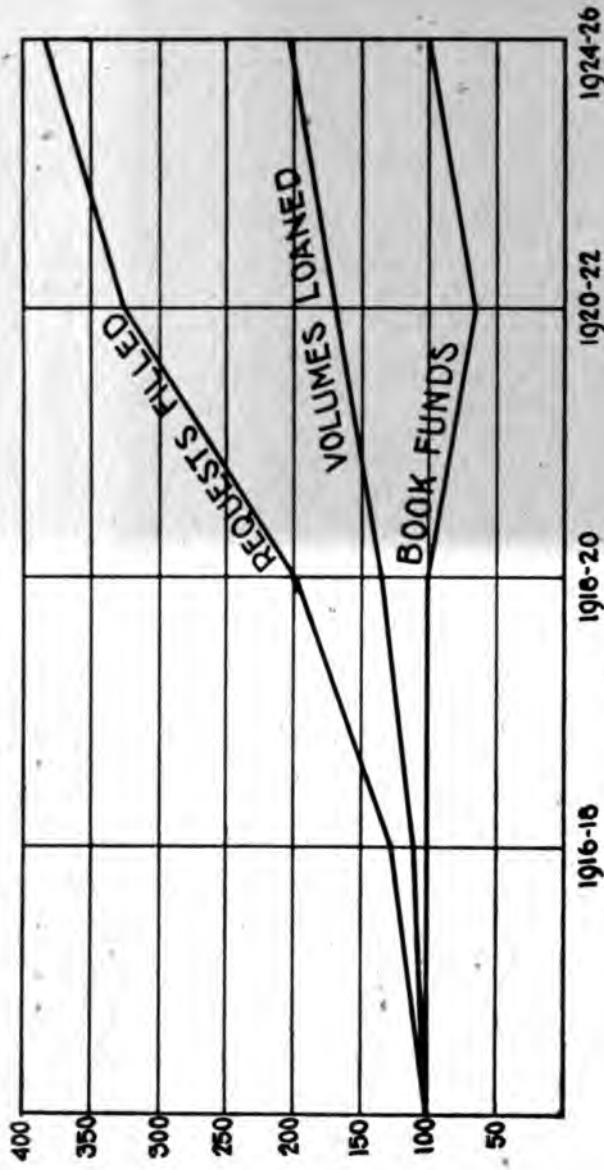
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes accessioned to December 1, 1924.....	32,958
Volumes in library December 1, 1924.....	26,464
Volumes added from December 1, 1924 to November 30, 1926.....	4,892
Volumes withdrawn to December 1, 1924.....	6,494
Volumes withdrawn from December 1, 1924 to November 30, 1926.....	725
Volumes accessioned to November 30, 1926.....	37,850
Volumes in library November 30, 1926.....	30,631

EXPENDITURES DEC. 1, 1924 to NOV. 30, 1926.

From Appropriation 1923-1925	From Appropriation 1925-1927
Books	\$ 900.40
Maintenance	1,080.94
Binding	416.45
Institutional libraries	2,592.62
Salaries and wages	2,995.65
	\$8,046.06
	\$19,787.12
	8,046.06
Total.....	\$27,833.18

Appropriation July 1, 1925 to June 30, 1927....	\$29,400.00
Expended July 1, 1925 to November 30, 1926....	19,787.12
Balance	9,612.88



NEBRASKA PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION 1916-1926

Increasing service has been rendered in spite of a lack of increased appropriation for books. If the need is to be met, worn-out books must be replaced and additional equipment should be provided.

SUMMARY OF LOANS
December 1, 1924 to November 30, 1926

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

1916-1918	1918-1920	1920-1922	1922-1924	1924-1926
3,126	50,943	4,020	68,540	6,213
Volumes Borrowed	Volumes Borrowed	Volumes Borrowed	Volumes Borrowed	Volumes Borrowed
Filled	Filled	Filled	Filled	Filled
Reissues	Reissues	Reissues	Reissues	Reissues

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Institution	Place	Population (Exclusive of employees)	Volumes	Circulation for Biennium	Superintendent
Boys' Industrial School, Kearney.....		209	1,239	4,811	R. V. Clark
Girls' Training School, Geneva.....		226	1,174	2,595*	Lena E. Ward
Home for Dependent Children, Lincoln.....		122	225	.....	Mrs. Margaret Hay
Home for Feeble Minded, Beatrice.....		845	925	4,415	Dr. L. T. Sidwell
Hospital for Tuberculous, Kearney.....		89	1,047	2,399	Dr. J. A. Burford
Industrial Home for Women, Milford.....		86	601	2,587	M. Evelyn Meyer
Orthopedic Hospital, Lincoln.....		113	1,360	.....	Dr. J. H. Matthai
Penitentiary, Lincoln.....		652	3,445	30,140	W. T. Fenton
Reformatory for Men, Lincoln.....		269	1,005	5,401	A. W. Miller
Reformatory for Women, York.....		30	.....	.....	Dr. Alma J. Chapman
School for the Deaf, Omaha.....		190	1,640	3,465	F. W. Booth
Soldiers' Home, Burkett.....		468	1,365	1,144	J. W. Waits
Soldiers' Home, Milford.....		186	590	.....	J. O. Moore
State Hospital for Insane, Ingleside.....		1,359	1,775	10,338	Dr. G. M. White
State Hospital for Insane, Lincoln.....		1,103	1,350	730†	Dr. D. G. Griffiths
State Hospital for Insane, Norfolk.....		831	1,140	.....	Dr. G. E. Charlton

*No report

†Report for 7 months

||Loan from Library Commission

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	LOCATION	VOLS.	DIRECTOR
State Library.....	Lincoln.....	88,221	H. C. Lindsay
Public Library Commission.....	Lincoln.....	20,631	Nellie Williams
Legislative Reference Bureau.....	Lincoln.....	40,000*	Edna D. Bullock
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln.....	60,000	Mrs. C. S. Paine

*Chiefly pamphlets and clippings

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	LOCATION	VOLS.	LIBRARIAN
Beatrice Junior High School.....	Beatrice	663	Miss M. A. Reid
Cotner College.....	Bethany	6,200	Ernest W. Landeen
Creighton University.....	Omaha	34,647	Francois E. Fitzgerald
Doane College.....	Crete	16,000	William B. Hunt
Fairbury High School.....	Fairbury	2,000	Mrs. Ora Cox
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island	10,868	Esther Hile
Grand Island High School.....	Grand Island	1,740	Alice E. Paine
Grand Island R. J. Barr Junior High.....	Grand Island	1,000	Mrs. Francis H. Paustian
Grand Island Walnut Junior High.....	Grand Island	1,007	Anna M. Donner
Hastings College.....	Hastings	9,000	Mrs. Ida E. Capps
Kearney High School.....	Kearney	1,900	Lucile Hrubesky

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES—(Continued)

SCHOOL	LOCATION	VOLS.	LIBRARIAN
Kearney Junior High School.....	Kearney	560	Katharyn Major
Lincoln High School.....	Lincoln	4,800	Thelma Eaton
Lincoln Junior High School.....	Lincoln	1,332	Emma E. Snyder
Luther College.....	Wahoo	5,000	Mrs. Hulda Knock
Midland College.....	Fremont	15,000	Helene H. Harder
Nebraska Wesleyan University.....	University Place	17,802	Ethol M. Langdon
Omaha Central High School.....	Omaha	15,872	Zora Shields
Omaha North High School.....	Omaha	2,042	Catherine L. Nichol
Omaha South High School.....	Omaha	6,785	Clare Mackin
Omaha Technical High School.....	Omaha	14,000	May Ingles
State Teachers College.....	Chadron	8,270	Anna B. Bright
State Teachers College.....	Kearney	25,000	Anna V. Jennings
State Teachers College.....	Peru	34,487	Grace M. Petersen
State Teachers College.....	Wayne	14,000	Nellie E. Behm
Union College.....	College View	9,000	Blanche M. Wood
University of Nebraska.....	Lincoln	200,000	Gilbert H. Doane
York College.....	York	5,000	Edith Cone

The list of school and college libraries of two years ago numbered nineteen. The present number is twenty-eight. The nine additional libraries are Beatrice Junior High School, Fairbury High School, Grand Island High School, Grand Island R. J. Barr Junior High School, Grand Island Walnut Junior High School, Kearney High School, Kearney Junior High School, Lincoln Junior High School and Midland College.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Population (1920 census)	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Circulation	LIBRARIAN			
			Income		Hours per week					
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals						
1 Ainsworth	1,508	1911	\$891 \$	500 \$	194 \$	182	25	4,087	10,314	Mrs. F. R. Galbraith
2 Albion	1,978	1909	1,200	480	168	612	16	4,700	12,181	Mrs. Jennie Graden
3 Alliance	4,591	1909	3,881	1,020	512	2,349	30	11,731	30,006	Mrs. Blanche E. Prettyman
4 Alma*	1,498	1910	1,025	680	204	418	48	3,300	7,182	Mrs. Jennie Taylor
5 Ansley*	1,319	1916	800	180	150	80	12	2,511	6,894	Mrs. F. L. Dewey
6 Arapahoe	894	1920	540	180	300	60	6	2,872	3,224	Mrs. L. Stevens
7 Areadia*	1,126	1917	1,500	480	270	496	38	3,208	10,555	Mrs. Sue Tucker
8 Arlington	695	1917	.....	104	.....	.....	6	1,680	4,637	Mrs. Mell Winset
9 Arnold*	1,692	1920	1,700	600	540	530	24	1,763	6,203	Laura C. Peterson
10 Ashland	1,725	1902	1,000	264	227	292	16	3,692	8,036	Margaret Godden
11 Atkinson**	1,830	1922	1,000	.....	.....	.....	1,200	.....	.....	Mrs. Leroy Richards
12 Auburn	2,863	1914	2,500	900	716	464	41	7,483	17,771	Mrs. Lillian Martin
13 Aurora	2,962	1908	1,725	720	404	838	30	6,268	17,534	Lillian Moore
14 Axtell	385	1925	165	120	135	.....	11	554	1,260	Mr. Hilding Soneson
15 Bayard	2,127	1921	1,286	560	230	421	13	3,000	7,445	Mrs. Kathryn S. Garrison
16 Beatrice	9,664	1893	6,632	2,272	1,634	2,866	60	17,901	70,914	Mrs. C. A. Anderson
17 Blair	2,702	1880	2,000	610	428	978	30	4,825	16,287	May McQuarrie
18 Bloomfield	1,481	1908	1,400	600	229	470	30	2,539	9,076	Mrs. Mae Durbin
19 Bridgeport	1,235	1910	1,000	144	600	60	9	2,300	6,000	Louise Estill

*Township library
**Including township population
†Too newly organised to report more fully

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Year Established	Population (1920 census)	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals	Other				
20 Broken Bow	1910	\$2,500	\$1,025	\$ 459	\$ 808	38	3,795	19,485	Mrs. C. L. Gutterson
21 Burwell	1,214	1912	572	300	230	291	24	2,417	7,669 Mrs. Hattie D. Hill
22 Carroll	448	1906	225	50	139	78	6	1,035	4,762 Mrs. Charles E. Jones
23 Cedar Rapids	766	1914	430	152	200	50	8	2,700	7,107 Mrs. E. L. Melvin
24 Central City	2,410	1899	1,450	720	530	200	30	5,713	11,588 Mrs. Eva Hord
25 Chadron	4,412	1908	2,511	1,200	548	827	27	7,106	32,371 Mrs. Elizabeth O'Linn Smith
26 Chappell	1,131	1920	1,000	360	372	171	10	2,201	9,929 Mrs. H. R. Busse
27 Clarks *	1,457 ^f	1919	1,500	480	79	730	29	2,281	2,944 Elizabeth McLean
28 Clay Center	965	1901	1,195	464	57	424	30	2,621	4,109 Bertha F. Jessup
29 College View	2,249	1905	1,800	751	222	825	36	4,741	10,179 Mary R. Welch
30 Columbus	5,410	1901	5,146	1,521	853	1,200	54	9,129	36,736 Rose Riddell
31 Comstock *	754 ^f	1925	500	300	776	290	15	1,034	1,140 Mrs. Edith Scarborough
32 Cozad	1,293	1917	1,800	480	773	603	36	2,875	2,600 Edith Allen
33 Crawford *	1,646	1912	650	193	265	90	7	3,006	9,037 Mrs. Maude Smeak
34 Creighton *	2,116 ^f	1913	.....	240	.....	.....	10	2,500	8,400 Mrs. Adela Horn
35 Crete	2,445	1878	1,042	515	295	604	30	8,028	15,867 Mrs. C. F. Baker
36 David City	2,216	1901	2,600	720	750	1,130	42	6,321	14,258 Mrs. Laura V. Paul
37 Dewitt	623	1902	350	110	150	101	10	2,520	4,155 Mrs. Bessie Burgher
38 Fairbury	5,454	1900	5,987	1,988	1,944	2,197	51	10,065	43,807 Mary C. McQuaid
39 Fairfield	784	1905	1,000	300	131	245	30	2,500	8,198 Mrs. Alma E. Ewing

*Township library

^fIncluding township population

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Population (1920 census)	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Books and Periodicals		Other				
			Salaries	Books					
40 Falls City	4,930	1902	\$4,400	\$1,500	\$1,274	\$1,202	42	14,428	Mary Hutchings
41 Franklin	1,055	1915	600	207	121	315	10	7,239	Josephine Peek
42 Fremont	9,603	1901	6,000	2,009	1,504	2,345	60	15,340	Dorothae Mortensen
43 Friend	1,263	1909	1,200	300	200	490	30	2,085	Rotha Doner
44 Fullerton	1,595	1911	1,726	480	518	241	14	6,135	Bernice E. Downing
45 Geneva	1,768	1907	2,250	900	560	695	39	5,037	Mrs. Isabel Bixby
46 Genoa	1,069	1902	305	130	162	81	8	2,200	Ella Munson
47 Gering	2,508	1910	1,250	424	225	159	10	3,000	H. M. Thornton
48 Gibbon	1,432	1910	1,164	450	265	300	22	3,035	Florence H. Smith
49 Gordon	1,581	1922	700	240	146	117	14	2,448	Frank Hummel
50 Gothenburg	1,754	1916	2,400	300	1,000	303	35	2,884	S. Frances Bottkin
51 Grand Island	13,947	1887	7,000	2,480	1,183	2,025	51	10,297	Daisy Houch
52 Guide Rock	611	1918	847	300	179	261	18	2,474	E. Katherine Guy
53 Hartington	1,467	1914	2,000	420	780	700	15	6,000	8,663
54 Harvard	991	1916	1,030	375	158	530	30	2,496	Edith K. Decatur
55 Hastings	11,647	1904	5,220	1,860	1,776	1,393	63	10,276	Nellie M. Carey
56 Havelock	3,602	1907	2,500	900	273	603	36	5,669	Susie G. Smith
57 Hebron	1,618	1922	1,193	420	307	841	30	1,967	Floy Talbott
58 Holdrege	3,108	1895	2,635	840	625	780	36	7,463	Georgia S. Potter
59 Hooper	1,014	1913	871	180	161	30	9	2,350	Mrs. L. G. Fauss

*Township library
†including township population

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
		Income	Salaries	Books and Periodicals				
60 Humboldt	1,277 1890	\$ 860	\$ 419	\$ 252	126	32	3,500	10,635
61 Kearney	7,702 1890	4,500	1,800	929	1,287	48	13,268	Mrs. J. K. Liggett Mrs. Mary E. O'Brian
62 Kimball	1,620 1919	1,339	450	304	593	30	2,575	Alice Armstrong Roy L. Lathrop
63 Laurel	830 1909	425	360	112	.....	48	1,436	1,800 Mary Kelley
64 Lexington	2,327 1919	2,500	900	250	1,161	44	3,622	16,986
65 Lincoln	54,948 1875	29,336	12,094	11,064	7,867	72	62,044	357,823 Lou Horne
66 Long Pine	1,200 1921	336	150	112	15	9	700	4,700 Mrs. M. J. Potter
67 Louisville	645 1901	300	116	82	16	6	1,532	2,332 Edith F. Shryock
68 Loup City*	1,958† 1917	2,939	1,009	372	697	36	3,224	14,568 Mrs. Dan McDonald
69 Lyons|| .....	1,025 1921	450	240	.....	10	1,500	.....	Frankie L. Smith
70 McCook	4,303 1902	3,500	750	805	772	56	5,060	17,411 Mrs. Besse M. Wright
71 Madison	1,735 1907	1,590	960	643	511	36	4,873	18,263 Mrs. Anna D. Johnson
72 Merna*	1,368† 1916	1,500	480	303	635	20	7,230	8,322 Mrs. H. K. Atkinson
73 Minden	1,527 1907	900	480	276	30	24	4,785	10,286 Mrs. Helen E. Slusser
74 Mitchell	1,298 1916	1,000	427	201	128	27	3,025	12,000 Mrs. A. B. Lord
75 Morrill	772 1917	252	180	55	25	8	.....	Mrs. S. J. Medlin
76 Nebraska City	6,279 1896	2,400	1,050	550	800	36	9,500	22,116 Anne Stevenson
77 Neligh	1,724 1904	1,351	400	208	641	15	4,770	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones
78 Nelson	955 1896	506	230	123	118	17	2,900	7,767 Alice E. Ruddell
79 Newman Grove	1,260 1923	740	240	253	85	16	1,135	Mrs. Margaret Dillman

*Township library

†Including township population
||Too newly organized to report more fully

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Year	Population (1920 census)	Established	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
				Salaries		Books and periodicals				
				Books and periodicals	Other	Books and periodicals				
80 Norfolk	1908	\$3,553	\$1,409	\$1,005	\$1,426	39	8,256	38,878	Laura Durland	
81 North Bend	1908	1,000	570	244	404	30	2,718	8,864	Laura Roump	
82 North Platte	1911	3,719	2,231	795	1,036	60	9,792	47,914	Eleanor M. Wheeler	
83 Oakland	1916	1,200	360	268	337	12	2,221	9,484	Lydia Hill	
84 Omaha	1877	89,451	46,287	12,767	30,384	76	167,212	711,435	Edith Tobitt	
85 O'Neill*	1912	2,000	600	205	973	20	3,676	11,890	Mary McLaughlin	
86 Orleans	1917	1,983	600	536	662	33	4,209	7,334	Dorothy M. Mahn	
87 Osceola	1906	400	140	289	25	12	2,212	4,500	Mrs. Jessie C. Marquis	
88 Pawnee City	1904	1,100	720	276	277	38	2,000	12,806	Mrs. Flora M. Fullerton	
89 Pender	1904	100	.....	.....	.....	3	3,350	3,000	Doris Weller	
90 Pierce	1908	1,000	300	292	318	9	3,511	6,279	Mrs. J. A. Andrew	
91 Plainview	1908	850	360	181	295	16	2,525	9,603	Mrs. P. H. Parker	
92 Plattsburgh	1886	4,500	1,920	618	2,203	33	14,000	32,319	C. Olive Jones	
93 Ponca	1910	500	120	287	313	8	5,000	6,184	Mrs. Mary Lipe	
94 Ralston	1924	375	120	30	62	10	1,100	3,000	J. T. O. Stewart	
95 Randolph	1918	600	180	203	240	7	2,800	5,688	Mrs. Carrie A. Kerr	
96 Ravenna	1918	1,100	600	180	381	24	3,990	12,293	Nellie V. Clark	
97 Red Cloud	1918	1,400	720	150	450	30	4,863	16,949	Yola Svaritz	
98 Rushville	1921	378	150	125	103	8	2,340	6,322	Margaret E. Young	
99 St. Edward	1925	392	.....	120	84	8	847	4,791	Gertie A. Anderson	

*Township library

†Including township population

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Year Established	Population (1920 census)	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals	Other				
100 Sargent [*]	1925	\$1,000	\$.....	\$.....	\$.....	24	6,000	15,382	Mr. Roy Hicks
101 Schuyler	1909	1,400	600	240	625	30	6,689	27,350	Mrs. Alice Carl
102 Scottbluff	1917	4,451	1,660	1,723	1,017	22	1,980	4,569	Mrs. Nellie Wilson
103 Scribner	1900	602	300	84	257	24	5,160	18,475	Anna Dierks
104 Seward	1890	1,989	636	374	746	33	5,135	11,548	M. Belle Schick
105 Shelton *	1907	3,084	928	283	640	29	13,072	15,143	Mrs. C. S. Burkard
106 Sidney	1917	2,276	640	668	386	100	50	42	Mrs. Constance Corbett
107 Silver Creek *	1918	1,000	300	150	81	357	4	1,600	Mrs. Mary Cobel
108 Spalding	1911	293	.....	.....	.....	230	30	2,500	1,200 Mrs. Luke Finn
109 Spencer *	1916	1,264	300	320	492	11	2,500	4,757 Mrs. A. F. Hollstien	
110 Stanton	1915	1,455	600	198	490	30	3,957	8,183 Mrs. J. D. Elmore	
111 Sterling	1904	325	240	51	83	14	2,020	6,912 Mrs. M. E. Hollenback	
112 Stromsburg	1918	1,000	540	250	491	36	9,450	34,871 Mrs. Lucy Conn	
113 Superior	1884	2,100	840	329	215	33	3,272	6,003 Sibyl B. Jarrett	
114 Sutton	1908	945	480	250	219	10	2,890	3,499 Mrs. W. B. Mason	
115 Syracuse	1901	563	120	46	297	14	950	3,553 Mrs. Allie Wood	
116 Table Rock	1917	223	103	64	37	12	1,307	3,057 Sophia Moller	
117 Talmage	1904	269	180	59	198	33	3,500 Mrs. Nora Campbell		
118 Tecumseh	1887	980	420	176	818	30	4,422	13,172 Elizabeth Latta	
119 Tekamah	1916	1,500	600	369	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

^{*}Township library[†]Including township population^{||}Too newly organized to report more fully

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES (Continued)

PLACE	Year Established	Income (1920 census)	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries		Books and Periodicals				
			Other						
120 Tilden *	1922	\$1,000	\$ 300	\$ 457	\$ 51	29	1,739	10,454	Mrs. Mattie Cunningham
121 Ulysses *	1916	650	193	457	51	7	1,735	5,387	Mrs. M. F. Withers
122 University Place	1917	4,871	1,530	756	1,280	36	11,383	48,641	Katherine C. Wood
123 Wahoo	1924	1,500	405	907	78	15	2,700	9,195	Mrs. Grace E. Oldham
124 Wakefield	1902	580	291	370	445	12	4,759	7,347	Ruth Collins
125 Walhill	1922	240	.....	116	120	4	1,414	1,483	Mrs. L. B. Clement
126 Wauza *	1920	1,500	360	212	431	10	2,248	7,120	Rose Banks
127 Wayne	1903	3,000	1,365	844	807	27	4,418	20,280	Mrs. E. S. Blair
128 Weeping Water	1917	1,350	480	200	466	20	5,326	11,676	Grace Contryman
129 West Point	1916	1,000	364	405	207	21	2,800	10,102	Minnie L. Frahm
130 Winside	1911	542	180	158	33	8	2,450	3,985	Ella Perrin
131 Wisner	1903	325	120	165	57	5	1,553	2,200	Jessie B. Kay
132 Wood River	1906	500	180	143	86	8	3,252	4,384	Anna R. Horn
133 Wymore	1917	2,500	1,075	457	778	32	4,087	21,699	Gladys Pirie
134 York	1894	3,861	1,755	1,506	2,114	72	13,225	23,633	Ada Haggard

*Township library
†Including township population

ASSOCIATION LIBRARIES

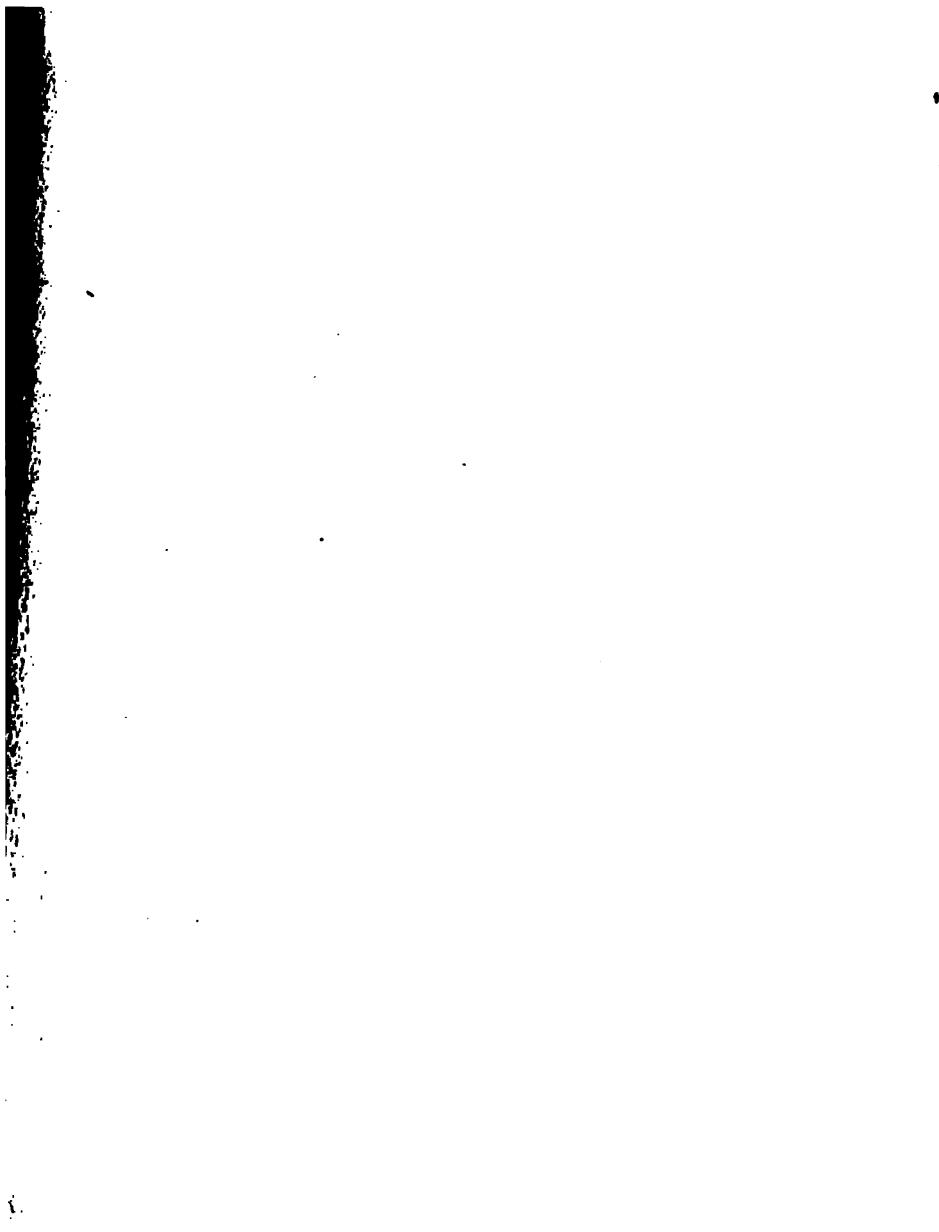
Libraries in the following towns, financed other than by taxation, are under the auspices of Women's Clubs or other civic groups. Some of these are scarcely more than traveling library stations. Others are near the line of tax support. If other towns should be included in this list such information would be appreciated by the secretary of the Library Commission.

Adams	Elkhorn	Ord
Alexandria	Elm Creek	Oshkosh
Alvo	Elmwood	Oxford
Angora	Eustis	Page
Avoca	Fairmont	Palmyra
Bartlett	Farnam	Papillion
Battle Creek	Grant	Pilger
Beaver City	Gresham	Platte Center
Beaver Crossing	Hardy	Polk
Beemer	Hay Springs	Potter
Belgrade	Hayes Center	Republican City
Boelus	Hemingford	Ruskin
Bradshaw	Herman	St. Paul
Brock	Homer	Salem
Brownlee	Humphrey	Scotia
Bruning	Inavale	Shelby
Cambridge	Jansen	Shickley
Carleton	Keystone	Shubert
Cedar Bluffs	Leigh	South Sioux City
Chester	Lemoine	Springfield
Clarkson	Liberty	Steele City
Crab Orchard	Lushton	Stratton
Crofton	Mason City	Sutherland
Crookston	Meadow Grove	Trenton
Culbertson	Minatare	Valentine
Dakota City	Monroe	Valley
Davenport	Mullen	Valparaiso
Decatur	Murray	Wahoo
Deshler	Nemaha	Wallace
Diller	Nora	Waterloo
Dorchester	Oak	Wauneta
Dunning	Oakdale	Western
Edgar	Ogallala	Wolbach
Elgin	Orchard	Wynot

Fourteenth
Biennial Report
Nebraska
Public Library
Commission









New home of the public library, Bridgeport, Nebraska. Erected by the Bridgeport Women's Club at a cost of \$3,400. The dimensions of this stucco building are 26 feet by 36 feet. The club has leased the upper floor to the library board. The club uses the lower floor.

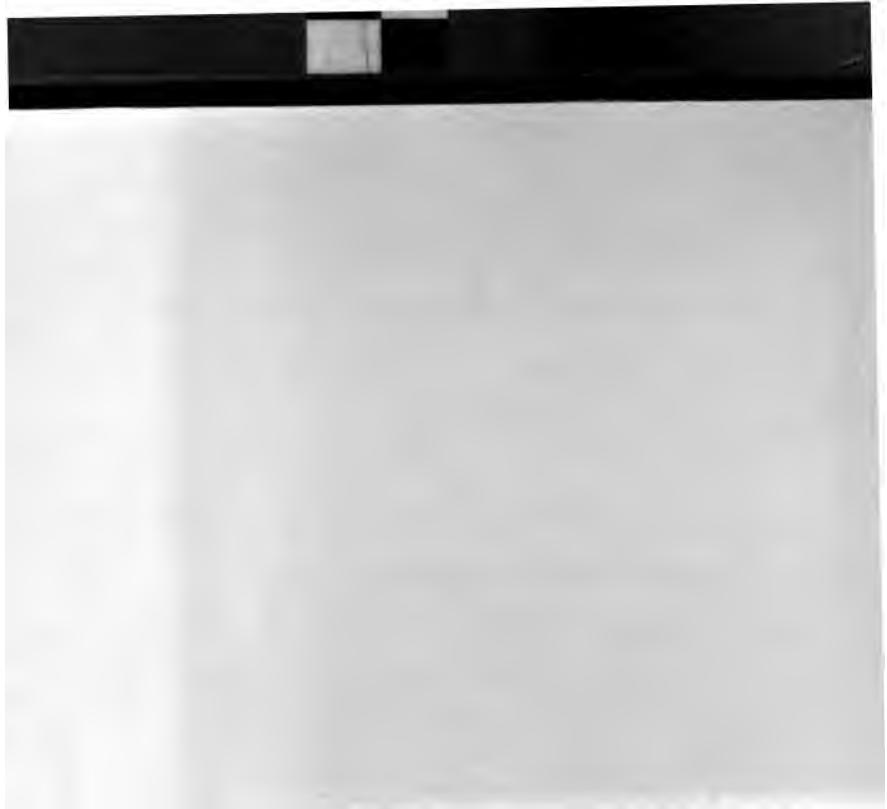
Fourteenth Biennial Report

OF THE

Nebraska Public Library Commission

Lincoln, Nebraska
November 30, 1928

AMERICAN PRINTING COMPANY
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



IS YOUES A MODEL TOWN LIBRARY?

THE MODEL TOWN LIBRARY

MAS

Income of \$1.00 per capita (minimum)

Circulation of 5 books per capita

One assistant for every 20,000 books circulated

EXPENDS

50% of its income for salaries

25% for books and periodicals

10% for binding and supplies

15% for maintenance

OFFERS

Trained service

Carefully selected books

Extension service through branches and deposits

**Cooperation with schools, clubs, and all other
community interests**

Poster prepared for the Model Town Exposition, Boston,
by the Massachusetts Division of Public Libraries

Nebraska Public Library Commission

EDITH TOBITT, President
Omaha, Nebraska

E. A. BURNETT
Chancellor of the University of Nebraska

GILBERT H. DOANE
Librarian of the University of Nebraska

CHARLES B. LETTON
State Librarian

CHARLES W. TAYLOR
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

NELLIE WILLIAMS
Secretary

MARGUERITE NESBIT
Reference Librarian

EDNA BOOTH
Clerk for Traveling Libraries

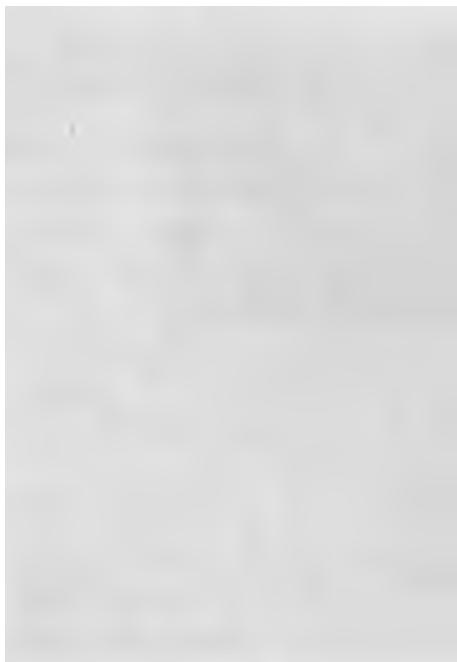
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Honorable Adam McMullen, Governor of Nebraska:

Dear Sir: Complying with the requirements of the law, I herewith present the secretary's report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission for the biennium ending November 30, 1928.

Respectfully yours,

EDITH TOBITT, President



Nebraska Public Library Commission

SECRETARY'S REPORT

THE COMMISSION

Soon after the printing of the last biennial report of the Library Commission there were three changes in its personnel. On January 1, 1927, Charles B. Letton and Charles W. Taylor, by virtue of their respective offices as State Librarian and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, became members of the Commission. On January 15, 1927, E. A. Burnett, succeeding Samuel Avery as Chancellor of the University, also became a member. It was due to illness that the resignation of Chancellor Avery became effective at this time. In behalf of the Commission we wish to thank him for service rendered during the seventeen years of his administration. Miss Tobitt, the president and appointed member, and Mr. Doane, librarian of the University, are also members of the Commission.

In compliance with the law, a meeting of the Commission is held annually in April. Precedent has established the holding of a meeting in the fall. The members are regular in attendance, helpful in suggestions, in accord with the policies which we are trying to consummate and appreciative of the limitations which curtail our efforts. The secretary wishes to thank each of the members for the support given her.

A very tangible evidence of the interest which Professor Taylor feels in the Commission is shown by devoting space in his biennial report to the work of this department.

We are glad to report that the only changes in the staff are by addition. Miss Nesbit continues as reference librarian and Miss Booth as clerk for traveling libraries. Martha Thomassen and Alice Martin are employed as half-time assistants. We also have four University students as extra helpers.

The added hours of service are possible because of a slight increase in the salary fund. We here record our thanks to Governor McMullen for his recommendation covering this item and to the legislature for its approving action.

Personnel

Activities

There has been no change of policy in the three-fold activities which the Commission is authorized to carry forward. It does at times seem not unlike a three-ring performance on which it is impossible to concentrate equally. We try, however, to keep a just balance in the work, which consists of aids to library extension, a system of loans and the supervision of libraries in the state institutions under the Board of Control.

Variety attends these three phases of the department's aim to foster library interests in Nebraska. Not infrequently people say to us, "How interesting your work must be!" Always we answer them that verily it is.

Field Work

In degree of importance the Library Commission has always given first place to the establishment and furtherance of libraries. It has been its aim to visit each library during a biennium. With the increasing number of these libraries, and the growth of the work along all lines, it has been impossible to cover the state in a two-year period. We are glad at this time to report the goal in sight. The increased number of visits made during the last biennium is due to the addition in hours of service previously mentioned. By the employment of Miss Thomassen, Miss Nesbit has been able to give some time to assist the secretary in the field work.

The following is a record of visits made since the last report of the Commission, the greater number having been made since July, 1927, when the increased appropriation became available.

Visits in answer to call	29
Other visits	84
<hr/>	
Total	113

The visits in answer to call have been to libraries about to organize or in need of cataloging. Of the twenty-nine visits, fifteen were made in the interest of organization, eleven to give assistance in cataloging, three relative to building plans.

In a number of instances there is need of return visits of greater length for classifying and cataloging the libraries. The requests for such help will be met as rapidly as possible.

Visits of the Commission are made without expense to the library receiving help.

Loans

Though aid in organizing and in improving existing libraries seems to us the most important phase of the Commission's activity, of necessity the greater part of its time is given to the daily requests for books which are sent here, there, and everywhere in Nebraska.

The Commission continues also to answer a few Macedonian calls, though most requests from across the borders are referred to the states from which they come. Exceptions are sometimes made in case of states which do not have library commissions. In connection with the reference work which the Commission does for the Extension Department of the University, requests have come from widely scattered registrants. The material needed is often Nebraska bulletins which cannot be secured elsewhere. The following is the list of twenty-seven states to which loans have been made during the biennium: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Three loans were also made to Canada.

We are probably best known by our traveling library loans, and letters are frequently addressed to the Traveling Library or Circulating Library, though the secretary is wont to say that we come by any name whereby we are called. A few of the less obvious names under which we have answered recent requests are The Library Mission, Publ' Library Mission, M-i-double s-i-double s-i-o-n, State Library Association for use in H. S. work, Bazaar of Nebraska, State University, Picnic Circle No. 2, University of Nebraska, (this from a far-off state), and Bostwick American Public Library. In this case the borrower was returning Dr. Bostwick's book of that title.

The requests from groups and individuals for the biennium number 10,882. The loans number 118,684.

The following is a classified arrangement of the requests and loans from December 1, 1926 to November 30, 1928:

Borrowers	Requests	Volumes
Groups of Residents.....	308	22,161
Public Libraries	664	17,332
School and College Libraries.....	887	49,380
Study Clubs	1,197	4,958
Other Organizations	34	2,898
Individuals	7.79?	21.955
Total.....	10.882	118,684

The method of loans is explained in the following letter of information:

"Books are sent out by the Nebraska Public Library Commission according to two general plans. There are traveling libraries which are loaned for three months with the privilege of extending the time. Usually a general group contains adult fiction and children's books in about equal numbers but a group consisting of only adult books or only children's books will be sent if desired. To any general traveling library non-fiction along special lines will be added on request. The number of books loaned is determined, in part, by the size of the community to which they are sent.

Groups of books for special study are sent to individuals and clubs, the number of books and the time limit depending on the special needs of the case. The time is usually a month, however. In either case the only necessary procedure is to write and ask us to send them.

In all loans there is no expense to the borrower except the transportation charges. Traveling libraries are sent by freight, special loans by parcel post.

We have no printed lists of our books but depend on our patrons to tell us what they want and we meet their wishes as far as our resources will allow.

A traveling library will be sent on receipt of an application card properly filled out and SIGNED BY AT LEAST THREE TAXPAYERS. We are greatly assisted in our selection of books if in the space for remarks, we are told the number of pupils and grades of a school, if the library is for the school, and something of the reading tastes of the community, if the library is for general reading."

For three years correspondence has been in progress in the interest of a lower postal rate on books. We are gratified to announce that by act of Congress under Section 444½ library books may now be sent within the state for 3 cents for the first pound and 1 cent for each additional pound. This is an appreciable lessening in the rate. It should increase our loans to the fourth zone where people have felt that the charge was too great. A five-pound package to that zone formerly cost twenty-four cents. It now travels that distance for seven cents.

Traveling Libraries

Our traveling libraries are loaned, as indicated, on page (eleven), to groups of residents, to public libraries, to schools and to other organizations. The schools lead in the number of requests. During the biennium 87 counties have received traveling libraries. Custer county takes first place, 54 libraries having been sent to 10 stations. Lancaster follows with 51 libraries sent to 14 stations. Next in order are Gage 37, Thayer 36, Saunders 29, Cedar and York 24, Valley 23, Merrick and Butler 22, Burt and Saline 21, Hitchcock 20.

Many of our borrowers express themselves as grateful for the books received. When they say that they are pleased with the selection, thanks are due to Miss Booth for her careful choosing. A few of these appreciative patrons wish to testify. I think first place goes to one from Pleasant Dale on whose card was written, "100% satisfaction".

Others speak as follows:

"Children derived more value and pleasure from this set than ever before," Emmet.

"Sincere appreciation for use of books. You can never guess how much they mean to us." Milford.

"Very well pleased. Fine books. Look for another box soon." Dalton.

"I am a booster for the traveling library." Stapleton.

From a sod house in western Nebraska where we sent a collection of particularly lovely books for children, came this letter: "I am writing to say that we wish to renew the library which we have. We have enjoyed it very much and we should like to keep it so that the children can get more benefit out of it. They will have more time when school is out. I keep the library at my house and people either come and get the books or we exchange them at our club which meets every two weeks." Bridgeport.

A regular borrower and staunch friend from Deshler writes "The enclosed letters are the result of a suggestion of mine to ask for a library. I am sending them all to please the little third and fourth graders who wrote them." The children speak thus:

"Please, Madam, I wish you would send us some books. I would like to have a book of bears. The books are so well to read in." Edgar.

"I surely am missing the books after they have been sent back. I would like to have a few books that have Indian stories. I sure like my teacher." Roy.

"I liked the library very much last year. I liked many

books. I would always miss the books. Will you send a few circus books, negro books and other kind of books?" Lorin.

"Have you some books? I would like to have some animal books to read in." Elmer.

"Will you please send a few books so that we do not waste time during the day. Please send an airplane book." Clarence.

"Will you please send us a library book. I would like to have one about wild animals." Gladys.

"We sure enjoyed your books last year. I would like to have some books where there are stories of Indians." Lorna.

Reference Reference loans have been sent into every county in the state during the biennium just ended. They have gone to 528 communities.

As in any reference department great variety attends the requests which are a considerable part of the daily mail. It is gratifying to note the increasing use of books for courses of study. The Reading with a Purpose courses supply the desire of many. We feel that we are thus adding our bit to the great work of Adult Education as fostered by the American Library Association through its board. We are also happy to send books to people who are as greatly in need of recreational reading as others are desirous of serious study.

Many letters pay tribute to Miss Nesbit's selection and promptness in filling requests. We appreciate the good words which come in return for the service which is cheerfully rendered.

A few letters are herewith quoted:

"You have the happy faculty of sending just what is desired. Better than I could select for myself."

"We will stop using your good services and will leave soon for New York to board the U. S. Liner 'Republic'. Part of the enjoyment of this trip will be due to you and your good help." Brock.

A rural borrower, registered for the Reading with a Purpose course on Our Children, writes: "I want to tell you that I am overjoyed at the opportunity which your Commission gives me." A month later she says, "I can not refrain from saying again how much I appreciate the opportunity for improvement which you offer. It is almost as good as college work. There is no ex-

cuse for any one in Nebraska to be without profitable reading." Gibbon.

Another rural borrower writes: "In asking for the address of a second hand store I was advised to write to the Library Commission. Our family of four are all readers, living on a farm twenty miles from town with no chance to go any where and reading material scarce. Would like something different for a change."

Another writes to Miss Nellie Williams: "Dear Friend: For though a stranger I feel that you are a friend to all who are in distress about books. Listening in on the radio about the Library Commission, I received the inspiration to write to you about some travel books." Fairbury. We appreciate such expressions of friendliness as indicating that our borrowers do not look upon us as a mere mail order machine.

From a Superintendent of schools comes this: "I received that book of Durant's. It is excellent. I just literally revel in it. It is a real thought provoker. Thanks very much for sending it. P. S. Oh, yes, I also received those articles on Child Labor."

A mother writes: "I hope to become a regular customer for such a good chance to get such helpful literature means much in my life." Meadow Grove.

An attorney whose confidence is reassuring says: "Please find blank check on which I am requesting you to fill in the amount due you for the following Reading with a Purpose pamphlets..... And will you please loan me The universe of stars, A beginner's star book and History of the French revolution. I am indeed glad to know of the service you are giving. I am receiving a great deal of pleasure and profit therefrom."

A young woman acknowledges help derived from the books which she has been borrowing for more than a year. "I am returning Saleeby-Worry, and Hutchinson-Instinct and health. My health is very much improved by reading these and other books which I have had from your library. I have been helped especially by books dealing with the control of nervousness, such as Jackson's Outwitting our nerves." Guide Rock.

"My order came today. Thank you. We have read the Furman stories for many years and perhaps that is why my daughter has set up a community center about forty miles from Hindman. The bed of the Creek

'Troublesome' is the best part of her road to town. In the story where the two teachers took a short cut home and discovered a still, is a familiar trail to my daughter. This summer she caught a glimpse of 'Amy', though Amy objects seriously to being looked at. The library and your obliging self are a great convenience to me." Franklin.

Institutional Libraries The human element enters largely into the work of the Library Commission for those who constitute our shut-in citizens. We feel a peculiar interest in the readers in the hospitals, homes, and schools, in the penal and correctional institutions. The majority of those who are physically able to read, or have the time for it, make good use of the books which are provided for them.

The circulation for the eleven institutions reporting is 95,286. This is an increase of 27,261 over the preceding biennium. The greatest increase is at the penitentiary. The circulation there for the past two years is 54,151, which is an increase of 24,011 over the two years preceding. This is not a padded report, nor is the number of prisoners much greater. The men are reading more. This is largely due to the reprinting of the catalog at which time many new books were added.

The librarian in charge faithfully exchanges the books daily. He writes frequently in appreciation of the library. He is also leader of the orchestra. A recent letter from him reads:- "I have written and published some songs and should be glad to send you copies. I have a new number placed with a New York City music publisher on a royalty basis. The books on music which you have added to our library have been the source of a great deal of interest to me in my few spare moments. There is a great demand for these splendid works."

Space forbids more than excerpts from a few of the letters received recently from the "boys." We quote from these as follows: "Upon entering my cell sixteen months ago I was delighted to see a library index upon my table and upon perusing it I was more than glad to know that I could study even though in prison. I have secured many technical books in drafting and architecture. Not being financially in position to obtain these books otherwise I am very grateful to have borrowed them from the library. I shall continue to benefit by them for another three months when I hope the gates

will open to my freedom and a useful life. Crime does not pay."

"I have been in prison since 1920 and have received a big benefit from the books in the library I have read Orison Swett Marden's books about six times each. Oh, what a help that man has been to me!"

"Keep up the good work, especially so in the line of travel and useful arts."

"I do not care much for fiction but I have benefited greatly by the books on drafting. I feel safe in saying that I can obtain employment in an office by just what drawing I have done while here."

The boys from the Reformatory also have a word to say: "In my short period that I have been here I have read many of the library books and I appreciate them for they help me to pass my time and make it much easier to do right."

"I have been benefited by the privileges given me through the librarian and my choice of book friends. I do sincerely believe that the library here is one of the greatest helps in reforming ones self. I have found that good literature is the foundation of clean living. From one who has been greatly helped through the institution library."

"I have been talking to the guard on the floor and he said that he thought you would like to know how the boys enjoy the library. Personally speaking I think it's great, as I have read close to 30 books in the short time that I have been here. And I have talked to several other fellows and most of them agree that the Library is one of their greatest pleasures."

"I greatly appreciate the library privileges extended to the inmates of this institution. On the average I read a book a week."

"I have read several books that have put me to thinking of the best part of life. If all the fellows would take interest in reading books, they would be surprised at what they would get out of them. The library is one great help to the school. Every nine out of ten fellows I have talked to about different books agree with me, so I thought I would write and tell you the interest the fellows are taking in the reading."

"I think the library should be continued at all costs. Now in regards to new books. We do need a few more, especially sea adventures."

We are letting a boy from the Industrial School speak for many there:

"It is with great pleasure I take this opportunity to tell the Nebraska Public Library Commission of my sincere appreciation of the work they are doing. I am sure that I voice the sentiment of almost two hundred other inmates of this Institution when I say the library provided free for us here is one of the greatest factors for promoting contentment among us. The books, both of fiction and non-fiction, are of the highest possible standard and of a kind that tend to improve one's mind as well as afford great pleasure in reading."

Another boy writes:

"I like to read of boy scouts and have succeeded in obtaining a book called 'Don Strong Patrol Leader'. It is a very interesting story and shows what a boy of the great outdoors can do. It tells how a boy can go straight. I enjoy and appreciate the use of all the library books as they teach sports of outdoor life."

The eighth and ninth grade girls at the Geneva Training School have expressed their pleasure in the library in themes written for their English classes.

"Our family manager has read to us the book 'Vesper Talks for Girls'. We have also read in the dormitory in the evening 'The Covered Wagon'. We all enjoyed it very much."

"My teacher gets some books from our library and brings them over to our school room and that way we can use them to help us with our studies."

"I appreciate your kindness very much and I know when I go out of the Institution I will be better all the way around from reading these good books. Before I came here I didn't read at all, but my mind is educated better and I hope I will keep on reading."

"The first book I read, I just had to force myself to read it. Now I cannot read enough. I have found a great pleasure in reading."

"The library provides great variety of books from which one may pick. The library provides a practice of system as all books must be checked in by a certain time and taken out a certain way."

"After I have finished a book that I think is better than the last one I read, I go over some incident and compare some of my traits, with the traits of the characters that have been brought out in some part of the book. My thoughts after reading an especially good book are

so much better that I think I will continue to read better literature all the time."

"By reading good books I have become acquainted with people which any one would like to know personally; but after reading about them I can count them as my friends."

"In my outside reading in English I see there are many things we can learn from different books such as the character of different people, and of the days long ago, and many, many other things that are interesting. I have thought this over, and decided to let my interest grow. When I have an opportunity to make use of a library I will not let it go by."

"When I was about the age of twelve I used to go to the library once a week and choose from two to four books. I thought if they did not have any pictures in them they were not interesting but now I have passed that stage and it is mostly the books that do not have pictures that are the most interesting.

"The stories of children and animals are interesting to me, because I love them."

"When I get lonesome or blue I get a good book and sit down and read it. I can always find a good story if I try."

"I travel all over England when I read Dickens' books. On a cold winter day I am in France or Spain with some interesting character. Any one can travel by reading books."

The teacher from the School for the Deaf who has charge of the library writes: "As you can tell by the monthly report the pupils enjoy the books from the library. With the smallest children it is the pictures or very simple stories, as the Potter books, which are taken. The effort they make to be the first one at the library indicates how eager they are.

The next grade asks for books on subjects which they have in school, about the Eskimos and Japanese and the like.

The older pupils use many of the books for their Literary Society and Christian Endeavor meetings. Many of them read purely for pleasure.

The books play a very important part in the children's lives."

The children themselves say:

"I like many kinds of stories to read. They help me

with my language. I wish to thank you very much for your kindness."

"I enjoyed reading 'Little Women' and stories like it. In doing so I improve my language and get pleasure at the same time. Thanks for sending us nice books."

"I am proud of our library. We have many kinds of books here, and on library days many of us go to the library. The books I like to read are stories of girls and boys of my own age. I am 15 years old."

"I surely am interested in reading the new books. They will make us use our brains and will help us improve our language."

"One of the books, I picked up, 'A Man Without a Country,' I enjoyed so much and think that it was the most interesting."

The children at the Home for the Feeble Minded tell why they like the library:

"The reason I care for library books is I like to read them. The next I will get is Captain John Smith of the olden times. And next will be an Indian story. The one I have now is called David Crockett Scout an adventure story. All way through it is a good book. I will get another a little different from that one."

"I care for library books because when you are not working why you can sit down and read. Sometimes you find things that will help you in your school. I like books of wars and great men of wars."

"I like to read a real good book for it helps me in my reading. Some Library books I read are very good and the stories are so interesting that I hate to finish them."

One of the older "boys" writes:

"I think the Library is one of the finest things we have. I am quite a reader myself. I think good books and magazines give us good knowledge of the past life and present. And reading is a good passed time."

It is with the permission of our Japanese and Filipino friends that their names are used respectively in the following letters, written from the Tuberculous hospital:

"I am one of those who enjoy the sight of books and love to fondle them with full devotion; in other words I feel that 'we do not love them because they help us here and there; or make us wiser or better; we love them because they are what they are and we are what we are,' as admirable Mr. Powys writes in one of his essays.

But, especially, ever since I came to this hospital I have learned and found out what it truly means to be a

lover of books. Indeed if it were not for these books this life would be unbearable.

Anyhow it was here in this little library that I first got acquainted with that delightful bookshop owner in Morley's 'The Haunted Bookshop,' and there is Conrad's 'Lord Jim' and 'Victory' which thrilled me with their sheer magic prose; also I can not forget Miss Cather's memorably beautiful 'My Antonia'. In the recent books which you have sent us, I was deeply impressed by Rolvaag's 'Giants in the Earth', and E. W. Howe's 'The Story of a Country Town', also Crane's 'The Red Badge of Courage'.

With these books, you are responsible for bestowing on us these significant pleasures and my only regret is that I can't thank you enough for what you are doing for us.

I beg of you to forgive my artless way of expressing my humble gratitude, and hoping that you will bless us with some more good books in the future, I remain."

(Signed) Leo Toyama

"Being one of the many constant readers at this institution's library, I can not express in words, my appreciation toward your thoughtfulness in making possible my access to the educational and entertaining books by Joseph Conrad, Thomas Hardy, and K. Norris. They mean a lot to me—not only in relieving my mind from harboring unpleasant thoughts, but keeping me quieter and greater satisfied which are very essential toward my cure.

I consider my stay in this institution a rare luck because I take my cure under a good management and with my favorite books close at hand."

(Signed) Augusto Franco

Another patient writes:

"To be in bed all the time would be an unbearable thing, but to have books to read is quite different. Such books as those by Zane Grey fill my hours with pleasure. Through their heroes I get more encouragement to fight valiantly and conquer the adversary—mine being T. B."

Our friends at the hospitals for the insane are also grateful for books, as voiced in the following letters:

"We, the inmates of the State Hospital for the Insane, appreciate very much your efforts to make life more pleasant for us by supplying all the nice books. During the nine years of my stay here I think I have read sev-

eral hundred of them. Reading makes one forget close confinement part of the time."

"Libraries in institutions serve as a medium of great benefit and satisfaction, to which free access to patients is accorded at all times. The books are carefully read by a number."

"Two years since I was able to read much, but before that, O, my! Every book I considered worth reading I read. It's the best part of any one's life to be able to assimilate the ideas that live in books."

"I wish to express my appreciation and enjoyment of access to books of the library. Being my favorite mode of recreation, the opportunity is especially welcomed by me."

"I read little but facts, and find several excellent works along these lines: historical; biographical; habits, haunts, and other matter pertaining to wild animals and birds; customs of all peoples of the world. Fiction I seldom read, although some is elevating; also I might add that description and treatment of insanity was very interesting and instructive."

"The books about children and home always interest me. Books of travel I like, especially the late ones."

A woman patient writes: "We have a new supply every week and I always like to get hold of the Shakespeare books. I'm especially fond of a man's writing."

"It is hard to say which are the best books in an institution of this kind. Some read only fiction to pass the time away and I think never remember what they read; while some whose minds are not affected with delusions, like to read books pertaining to history. I like to keep well posted through the newspaper. I also like to study books in practical mechanics, being an engineer myself."

Publicity

The Library Commission publishes only a biennial report. Funds are insufficient for issuing a bulletin as is done in many states. Printed publicity is therefore confined to circular letters, sent as need determines, to space in the bulletins of such organizations as the Parent-Teacher Association, the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Association of University Women, and to occasional editorials in state papers.

An article in the November 1928 issue of the P. T. A. bulletin written by Miss Jennings, directs its readers to the Library Commission for the list of "Forty books all

children under sixteen should have read", as compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Education. Mails are flooded with requests for the list. "It pays to advertise".

In its issue of March 5, 1927, the "Nebraska Farmer" made known the Library Commission's loan service to the state through its Home Circle department under the caption, "Study at Home." We quote from the article as written following an interview on the Reading with a Purpose courses: "Have you regretted not being able to study literature, psychology or art? If so, you will be interested to know that you can go to school at home and study along these and many other lines. Courses are offered in this home school on widely different subjects. Who is going to teach your school and who will buy your books? The American Library Association which has organized these courses will be your teacher. A short introduction has been prepared and a short list of books on each subject is recommended. Your own Public Library Commission at Lincoln will furnish the books free except for transportation." Then follows a list of the courses with annotations. This advertising brought immediate returns. We are quoting from a few of the requests.

"We desire to enter your study at home courses on 'Our Children'. We are wondering if you have anything to offer on Agriculture, Poultry or Dairying".

"I am returning the booklets which I enjoyed immensely. With the notes I have taken I can study for months to come. Will send for other short courses when I run out of fresh material for my mind."

"I regret very much having been unable to study literature but the public schools did not include it in their courses in Virginia twenty years ago when I went to school. I am just bubbling over with joy at this opportunity. Kindly send me books for history and literature courses."

The foregoing, with many other requests came from towns which do not have public libraries. "Why not" county libraries for such?

January 24, 1928, "The Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman" gave considerable editorial space to the work of the Library Commission under the heading "State Library Commission offers books on almost any subject to rural readers." We appreciate this publicity which showed an understanding of the work which we are trying to do.

Following the reading of the secretary's annual letter in March 1928, it was suggested by Judge Letton that a digest of it be sent to the newspapers of the state. Accordingly a circular letter was mailed to about two hundred Nebraska papers. It is not possible to check the returns, but we received some interesting letters and marked copies of a few papers. The article was given front page space by some. By return mail one editor wrote: "Your request for publicity not only met with favorable consideration but spurred us to the point of writing to ask for a volume that would assist the writer in improving his efforts in public speaking."

As has been stated, the biennial report of the Library Commission is the department's only publication. It is our desire by that means to give an idea of the nature and scope of the work. We also incorporate notes relative to our public libraries and library associations. For its library statistics alone a complete file of the report should be in every library in the state. It is our suggestion that the reports be bound, six issues to a volume, and be kept at hand for ready reference.

When a biennial report has gone on its way after all the ups and downs of issuance, it does not make us feel badly to receive letters of acknowledgment. We are quoting from two letters from across the sea which came upon receipt of our last report. Mr. Savage wrote Miss Nesbit, "It is very kind of you to send us a copy of the Biennial report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission. We are glad to have it. I am delighted that you enjoyed your visit to Edinburgh and am only sorry that we were not able to make more adequate preparation for you."

Another acknowledgment by J. M. Mitchell, Secretary to Lord Elgin, President of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust reads: "On behalf of my chairman, Lord Elgin, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the interesting biennial report of the Nebraska Public Library Commission. I am desired to say that Lord Elgin is much interested in its contents and trusts that the work will continue to develop on the same satisfactory lines."

In addition to printed publicity the Library Commission has made known its resources by talks to audiences, seen and unseen.

During the 1927 observance of Book Week the secretary gave six talks, five of which were on joint library

and P. T. A. programs in Beatrice, Fairfield, Hastings, Havelock (2), and Lincoln. She has also talked on the Library Commission to High School, College, and University classes at Chadron, Fairfield, Hastings and Lincoln. Talks on the Commission have been given to clubs at Douglas, Edgar, Harrison, Shelby, Lincoln, and University Place. At the 1928 meeting of the N. L. A. at North Platte the secretary told of the work of the Commission under the title "Ask me another."

In December, 1927, in connection with the meeting of Organized Agriculture at Sidney, the secretary gave a talk to the women on children's reading. She is to talk at similar meetings in December, 1928, at Alliance and in January, 1929, at Lincoln. In 1927, she also gave talks at the Library Institute on Library administration, Books "As readable as fiction" and Poetry for children. Miss Nesbit gave a talk on Reference work. The institute was arranged by the Commission and was held at the Commission office.

The radio has also been used as a means of publicity for the Library Commission and in disseminating a general interest in books and reading. In 1927 the secretary prepared a series of six radio talks on the Commission and other library topics. Due to her illness three of these were kindly read by Mr. Diers of the University studio.

During 1927 and 1928, Miss Tobitt and members of the Omaha public library staff gave 15 minute radio talks each Saturday evening. Talks were given daily during Book Week by members of the staff.

In 1927, Mr. Doane gave a series of fifteen radio talks on subjects relating to libraries, the history of printing, and books. From February to July of 1928, he again broadcasted on each Friday. During the fall of 1928, his "Library Hour" comes at 2:30, once a month on Monday, when his talks are a half hour in length. This gives opportunity for clubs to have Mr. Doane's talks as a part of their program.

Exhibits have come to be a regular part of the Commission's program. We regard these as means of publicity. Extensive exhibits were arranged for the library institute and for the N. L. A. meetings of 1927 and 1928. Exhibits were sent to Kearney in 1927 and to Omaha in 1928 for the meetings of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs. The secretary attended both meetings

and explained to many interested women the work of the Commission. At Kearney she was assisted by the state chairman of Library Extension, Mrs. W. T. Fried of Beemer, and at Omaha by Mrs. Mae Durbin of Bloomfield.

An exhibit was sent to Grand Island in 1927 for a district meeting of the Nebraska State Teachers' Association. We also placed an exhibit at the Park school, Lincoln, for the Teachers' Association in 1928. An exhibit was sent to the 1928 meeting of the Parent-Teacher Association held at Kearney.

The publications of the American Library Association were featured in all these exhibits. The Library Commission is glad to supply the list of A. L. A.'s publications on request.

At the suggestion of Professor Gooding of the Agricultural College, a collection of books for a farm home library was exhibited at the State Fair in 1927. Two hundred books were made available during the 1927 summer session of the University for the class in children's literature by the late Professor Searson. A like collection was arranged for Miss Pyrtle's class in 1928. An exhibit of children's books was used to illustrate a talk to the women of the Organized Agriculture meeting at Sidney in 1927.

Posters and books have been sent for exhibit during Book Week of 1927 and 1928 to Beatrice, Beemer, Coleridge, Hastings, Havelock, Hooper, Kearney, Madison, North Platte, Plattsmouth, Scribner, Superior, Wayne, and Winside.

Needs

For several years we have registered the need for additional service to the state by the Library Commission. Comparing the tenth biennial period with the fourteenth, the requests filled and the volumes loaned are as follows:

Biennial period	Requests	Loans
1918—1920	4,020	58,540
1926—1928	10,882	118,684

This is an increase of 167% in requests in ten years. Over the same period there has been an increase of 102 per cent in loans. This has been accomplished by a staff augmented by the half time of one person and a slight increase in hourly assistance. We have stressed the need of a sufficient staff to visit all libraries of the

state each two years. As previously referred to in this report the increased appropriation of the last legislature was of material help in meeting the requests for special aid and in systematically visiting the libraries.

We have kept faith by using as advantageously as possible the fund available. There remains much to be done. Visits of longer duration for definite assistance are needed. We have therefore submitted in our legislative estimates, a request for a salary fund that will be commensurate with these needs. Extra travel requires extra maintenance. Request has been made for an increase in the maintenance fund.

There has been no increase in the book fund in ten years. It was cut one third during one two-year period. If the requests for books are at all adequately met, more money must be provided. At midwinter last year, there were forty-five requests for traveling libraries which could not be filled within a reasonable period of time. The patience of both borrower and staff is unduly taxed by such a condition. Our estimate accordingly includes a request for a substantial increase in the book fund.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

There were 134 tax-supported libraries in Nebraska two years ago, 21 of which were township libraries. The number of towns now levying tax for municipal and township libraries is 141. One of these, Hemingford, is not given in the libraries listed elsewhere in this report because the tax was but recently levied and no statistics are yet available. Soon after the printing of our last report, Ord passed from an association to a taxed library, the levy being made by the township. As the only Nebraska town of over 2000 population, which did not maintain a library, with the exception of South Sioux City, we were glad indeed to welcome Ord. The other towns added within the past two years are Crofton, Dakota City, Merriman, Oshkosh, Scotia and Springfield. Crofton is a township library. Axtell has also received township support for the past year. Merriman has a meager income but its library beginning is of peculiar interest due to its location in big Cherry, a county of 5,979 square miles. Cambridge, Oakdale and South Sioux City each receive a small amount annually for library use. We hope they may soon be listed as or-

ganized libraries. By annexation we have lost one library, University Place now being a part of Lincoln.

On comparing the last biennial period with the preceding one, we find that the general status of Nebraska libraries is improving somewhat. Forty-five show an increase in income, twenty-two a decrease while the remaining sixty-seven have made practically no change in the amount received. Twenty libraries report an increase in salaries, three a decrease. The report on expenditures for books is regrettable. Only twenty-eight libraries report an increase in the amount spent for books while thirty-four have decreased their book fund. Extensive repairs in eight libraries and unusually high overhead expenses in eleven others probably account in part for inroads into the book fund. Seventy-two libraries show a gain in circulation, twenty-three a loss.

The following list of twenty-five towns report a library income of \$1.00 or more per capita, the amount which the A. L. A. considers a reasonable minimum revenue. This is an increase of five in a two-year period.

Arcadia*	Lexington
Arnold*	Loup City*
Clarks*	Madison
Clay Center	Merna*
College View	Orleans*
David City	Shelton*
Fairbury	Sutton
Fairfield	Wakefield
Geneva	Wausa*
Gothenburg	Wayne
Hartington	Winside
Harvard	Wymore
Hebron	

*Those starred are township libraries, the population considered being that of the unit taxed.

Towns having within \$100.00 of \$1.00 per capita are: Alma, Friend, Morrill, Newman Grove, North Bend, Stanton, and Tilden.

There have been 23 changes in librarians in the past two years. By death we have lost three. Margaret Godden of Ashland, Mrs. P. H. Parker of Plainview and Belle Schick of Seward. A member of the Ashland library board writes in appreciation of Miss Godden: "Margaret Godden, librarian of the Ashland Library, passed away October 14, 1927. She served the city as

librarian for nearly five years and during her term of office the library prospered. She tried to make it a vital part of the community. Miss Godden was uniformly helpful and courteous to all classes of patrons and as a consequence was beloved by the children and highly respected by the older readers. Her work was characterized by a high quality of efficiency and conscientious attention to details. She was retiring by nature and even those in close touch with the library were not always aware of the patient labor which she put in to make it a credit to the community. Her passing is not only a loss to the library but to the entire community."

Mrs. Parker died April 16, 1928. The following is taken from a Plainview paper in tribute to her service as librarian: "The library was dedicated twelve years ago and the predominating personality of these years is that of the beloved woman who served as librarian for that time. Mrs. Parker's task was a labor of love. Each detail of her work was carefully done and because of her efforts our library is reaching a large number of readers young and old. She remains with us a sweet memory and a hallowing influence."

Miss Schick died a little more than two years ago. The fact of her death was not known to us prior to printing our last report. Therefore no mention of it was made at that time. A member of the library board of Seward says of Miss Schick: "She was appointed librarian in 1913 and held that position until her death November 7, 1926. She was a faithful and efficient librarian, especially anxious to improve the quality rather than the quantity of reading done."

We regret that Mary McQuaid of the Fairbury public library has left the Nebraska field of library service. We are glad to report that she is happy in her work in Oakland, California, where she has charge of a branch library.

Nebraska has been the recipient of gifts from the Carnegie Corporation in the building of sixty-eight libraries. "The corporation has by no means abandoned its interest in library service, but it feels that in so far as buildings are concerned its work has been accomplished," wrote Dr. Learned of the Corporation some time ago. Nebraska libraries are, however, receiving gifts from the same source in the form of books known as the International Mind Alcove. In explanation of this gift we are

Gifts and Buildings

quoting Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, who says, "An important function of a well-trained librarian is to select for the serious reader books that will broaden his outlook. To aid librarians in this work of selection, so far as may concern the field of international relations, the Carnegie Endowment has established in certain public libraries what are known as the International Mind Alcoves. The books placed in these alcoves are chosen from the most recent publications that bear upon the customs, the art, the culture, the government, or the geography of foreign nations and peoples. The International Mind Alcoves are to stimulate the international mind."

In answer to application, several Nebraska libraries are receiving small shipments of these books, for which they are very appreciative. There are other libraries which are on a waiting list and will receive their gift as promptly as the Corporation finds it possible to supply the books. The Library Commission made application in 1927 for the I. M. A. and has received several shipments. We are using these books in the spirit that prompts the gift, trying to aid in the purpose for which they are intended. An exhibit of the Commission collection was enthusiastically received by the members of the Nebraska Library Association at its state meeting in 1928. It is our hope to have Amy Heminway Jones, the Division Assistant through whom correspondence is carried on, as a speaker on the program of our next N. L. A. meeting.

Gifts for Nebraska library buildings are now coming from within our borders in a generous sum sufficient to erect a building or by popular subscription representing the interest, perhaps sacrifice, of many citizens. In each case peculiar interest attaches to the ways and means by which these new homes have been made possible.

For a number of years Central City has been agitating the question of more adequate library quarters. The problem has been solved by a generous gift from a pioneer resident, Mrs. Melvin C. Hards, who has given \$25,000.00 for the purpose of erecting a library as a memorial to her husband. "Mrs. Hards has been deeply interested in the advancement of education and has served as a member of the library board for several years. The library is to be well located near the new federal building. The city provided the site. Construc-

tion will be pushed as rapidly as possible and the library should be ready for use in the spring. Every resident of the city feels grateful to Mrs. Hards for her public spirited act."

Bridgeport, Nebraska, is occupying a new library home. The secretary of the library board writes: "The Woman's Club had wanted a home of their own for years. The main thing was financing it. They decided to erect a building and allow the library exclusive use of the first floor, they to use the basement. The building of brown and white stucco is 36 feet by 26 feet, and cost \$3,400. The library board pays the club twenty dollars a month rental. It is a very satisfactory arrangement for the parties concerned." Elsewhere in this report the attractive, home-like building is pictured.

After a long period of waiting for library quarters, Sargent now has a well-located building, adapted to its needs, with space for growth. The library board purchased a residence for about \$3,700 and remodeled it at a cost of \$1,000. Sargent is a township library.

Soon after Dakota City was given a tax levy for library purposes, a building program was launched. To show how the hope of this building was realized through the energies of a small group of women, we are quoting from one of them who writes: "Years ago in the heart and mind of one of our members was a dream of a public library for our village. This idea was voiced in the Wednesday literary club as early as 1918, but met with incredulity that a dozen women could build a library. In 1920 it was voted 'to talk of the matter again', and in 1922 a motion was passed 'to start the movement to build a library for the use of the citizens of Dakota City.' The town board offered its assistance and levied a small tax. Money was also raised by socials and subscriptions and the venture was launched. Then followed a book reception which made the beginning of the book collection. For some time the library was located in the town hall, but there has long been need of more room. In April, 1928, the club decided to start a building fund, and voted 'that a committee of men be asked to help with the building project.' Committees were appointed and plans to raise money were started. The men were asked to decide upon the site. A lot was purchased for \$100. Work began on the building in the early summer and it was opened for use November 10, 1928. The building which is of brown brick is 22 feet by 28 feet.

It was erected at a cost of about \$2,200.

One of the most interesting library situations is that at Davenport, where the town en masse has taken a part in erecting a community building in which the library is housed. The building was dedicated November 23, 1928. Davenport does not have a tax-supported library though it will no doubt become such. "The Woman's Club of Davenport is responsible for the new \$10,000 library and community building, dedicated to 'the youth of the community' on November 23, 1928. Mr. M. M. Jennings gave the site.

The growth of the library and the raising of the budget would make an interesting tale. Beginning with a book shower of 200 volumes and cash donations of \$350, in 1921, the library has gradually increased and has made itself a real institution in the town and community. The members of the Clubs serve as librarians. With a bequest of \$1,000 and the promise of \$500 and a building site these energetic women raised the budget by means of dinners, home talent plays, rummage sales, ball games, traveling food sales, vanishing luncheons, and pledges.

More than fifty pioneer citizens are memorialized through gifts to the building fund. Their names will appear on a bronze tablet placed in the library.

The reading room with an alcove for club meetings is on the first floor, and a community room, in the basement with full equipment, including a kitchen, will accommodate more than 100.

Davenport is justly proud of its achievement."



**Book Week
and
Vacation
Reading**

Book Week grows in favor. Many libraries are observing it regularly. Suggestions issued by the National Association of Book Publishers are useful in arranging programs which include costume plays and pageants, movie slides and radio talks. Because of frequent inquiry we are here giving the address of the N. A. B. P. It is 25 West 33rd Street, New York City, Miss Marion Humble, Executive secretary.

Vacation reading is also becoming a part of the library's summer program. We are quoting Mrs. Anderson of the Beatrice public library regarding their plan to interest the little vacationers of 1928: "We tried this summer to make the reading in our juvenile department of an educational nature without having our purpose too obvious. This idea was carried out by our 'Travel Club' in which the children took a trip around the world in books. Each child who wished to join the tour was given a ticket with his name, the countries he visited and the books he read. The tourists were required to visit at least ten countries, reading one book on each country, and to report briefly to the librarian some of the things that he learned. The following letter was sent to the children:

Dear little Friend:

Did you know about our 'Travel Club' in which we are taking a trip around the world in books? It is such fun to read about how "Wretched Flee" got his queer name and how differently the children of other lands dress. There is still time to join our club and read these books. The last week in August we are having a party to which all who have read at least ten books are invited. At this party will be children from many lands. Each child may dress in the costume of his favorite country.

Oh, yes! of course you know about our honor roll. Everyone who doesn't have a fine on his card has his name on the honor roll. If you have fines be sure and pay them soon so we may add your name.

Goodbye until next week.

Sincerely,

The Library.'

The trip lasted three months after which the library gave a party for the tourists who had completed the journey. The children dressed in the costumes of their favorite foreign country. Over 100 children enrolled in the 'Travel Club' and the number at the party was between 40 and 50."

COUNTY LIBRARIES

"The County Library Comes Home to the People"

The days are growing shorter; the long evenings are at hand. The weather is not so warm, and our minds naturally turn to indoor things to do as we draw about the fire. We find after the chores, the dishes, and other things are done, the paper read and the lessons ready for tomorrow, that the members of the family, especially the children, are wanting something to do until bedtime. A small boy of the family, restless, as small boys sometimes are, breaks upon the family by saying, "I wish I had a good book to read". Rather wistful looks on the faces of some of the other members of the family betray the fact that a book might not come amiss with them.

Mother says, "Why don't you bring a book home from school?"

"I've read all of those; but when I was at Beatrice I saw a book I want to read. The boys over there say it is a dandy. It's 'Treasure Island'. And then there was a book called 'Smoky' that they said won a prize last year. It is a story of a cow horse. And there was another prize story that the boys and girls both liked. It was about a carrier pigeon. I think its name was 'Gay Neck'."

"Where did they get these books? Had they bought them? They must have cost a good deal", said Mother.

"No, they had borrowed them from the Library."

A few days later the boy comes home from school more excited than usual. "I was telling the teacher about wanting some books, and then she told us that there is a way to get books, so we could have them here at home, almost any book we want. Not just books like those Jim had, but books that you and Father and Sis would like, too. She says a lot of people get books that way."

"But son," Mother patiently explains, "Miss James doesn't realize how little money we have to spend for such things. It would cost us more money than we could afford to pay to have all the books we would like to read."

"No, Mother, Teacher says it wouldn't cost each of us any more than it would to buy one common book or take one magazine. You see everyone in our county could

have one library. They call it a 'county library,' Mother, and the whole county buys the books and passes them around. Then we would have as much chance to read books as they do in big cities. I wish I knew as many things as Jim's cousin does—that one that comes from Omaha. The last time he came to visit Jim he told Jim and me the most stories about other countries and everything. He says he has library books at home all the time.

"But, son, he lives near the library. When there is only one library in the whole county, it might be too far away for us to go often. And maybe when you wanted a book it would be at the other end of the county."

"No, Mother, we wouldn't have to go to the library to get books. We could go any time we wanted to, but teacher says they'd send out books to stores or schools. She says sometimes they send out trucks of books and the trucks have shelves in them and they are just like book cases on each side. The trucks go around to every farm house and we could each pick out our own books. If there was any book we wanted like 'Smoky', or 'Treasure Island' or that one about the pigeon, we'd just tell the truck driver and he'd bring it to us next time. And if the truck couldn't come the librarian would mail us the books we wanted. We'd just have to phone her what we wanted. And any time you wanted to call her up and ask her about anything, you could."

Mother catches some of her son's enthusiasm. "Do you suppose a librarian could tell me what was the matter with my cucumber plants?"

"She could find out anything in books. Teacher told us about one woman who saved her turkeys by asking the librarian what to do. She lived in Wisconsin, and her turkeys were all sick and she tried everything she thought might cure them. Finally she asked the librarian for a book on turkey-raising. When she read it she learned exactly what to do for her sick turkeys and she saved them. Turkeys were high that year and she made three hundred dollars on the turkeys she saved by reading that book."

"Miss James says it is better to have a county library than a small one in each town because one building for the whole county doesn't cost so much to build and the country people have just as much chance to get books as the ones living in town do. The whole county can buy more books and they can get a better librarian. She

says the books do us more good if there is a librarian who has been to a school where they teach them just what kind of books to buy for everyone to read. It costs more to hire that kind of a librarian, but Teacher says she goes around over the country and gets acquainted with everyone so she can know what kind of books they will want. I wish we had a county library.

"I wish we did, my boy. But I don't suppose anyone in this county would start one; I have never heard of any in this state."

"No. Miss James says there aren't any in Nebraska yet. But there are good ones in some other states, and she knows what they have to do to start one. I suppose everyone would have to want one first, don't you, Mother? I know everyone would like it if they had it. I'll bet we would read a lot if we had the books. I've read every one of those books at school. Some of them I have read over and over."

Mother, as she folds away her sewing, thinks much more of their need for books than she lets her son know. "It will be time for you to help get the cows up by the time you get your clothes changed."

"Yes, Father will be wondering where I am. I wish we had a county library though. I wish our county could be the first one in all Nebraska to have one."

As she watches her boy Mother thinks of his future. Like all mothers, she wants her children to have as many advantages as possible. What if there could be a county library in her very own county! She could find a few spare minutes between her busy hours to read books she has always wanted to read. She would like to know more about the people who live in countries she can never visit. She would like to know about the people who have become famous; she would like to know more convenient ways of doing her work. And then sometimes she would enjoy going far away from her work, in some story. How much their whole community would be helped by a library, by a library large enough to furnish anything that anyone wanted. The only way they could have one that large would be by having a county library.

Her son's last words, "I wish our county could be the first one in all Nebraska to have one!" come back to her. She has the same wish, just as some others she knows

will have when she talks with them about it. What a splendid opportunity for her club to help the community!

If there are other mothers who would like to have their county be the first one in Nebraska to have a county library—if they see the advantages of it and would like to know more about it—the Nebraska Public Library Commission at Lincoln, will gladly furnish information to anyone who is interested.

The foregoing story is found in Extension Circular 592, prepared by the Library Commission for Miss Brown of the Agricultural College as a part of her 1928 year book. Twenty-five hundred women are enrolled in her clubs for this year. Copies of the circular may be obtained from the Nebraska Public Library Commission.

The A. L. A. has pamphlets on the subject which we send in quantity to a county requesting it. There is also good material in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1559, called "Rural Libraries" issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is true, as the small boy said, that we have no county libraries in Nebraska. However, there is active interest in several counties. Deuel and Sioux counties have put on programs to acquaint the people with the county library idea. Other counties are making inquiry and requesting material. In writing for Circular No. 592, quoted herein, the borrower says, "I wish ours might be the first county in Nebraska to get a county library."

It was with regret that the Library Commission in 1927 declined the use of a book truck offered us by the A. L. A. through Miss Merrill of the Library Extension Division. There is nothing which makes a greater appeal to the secretary than a "Parnassus on wheels", but it seemed at that time impossible to finance its use. Efforts to interest a few libraries of the state in the book truck were unavailing because they felt that they could not meet the problem of equipment. It is our hope that the practical demonstration of a county library by means of a book wagon may sometime be accomplished. Perhaps we may not have to decline so kindly an offer a second time.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

The 1927 officers of the Nebraska Library Association sent out May and September news of the state meet-

*The
N. L. A.*

ing to be held in Lincoln, October 13 and 14. In answer to the question "Why go?" they said:

"To keep the trend of the library profession,
As the only means of a library get-to-gether,
Because we really want to go."

Perhaps this helped in securing unusual attendance at the 32nd annual meeting of the N. L. A. The registration reached 123 which is 20 more than at any previous meeting. The sessions were held at the city and university libraries, the president, Miss Langdon, librarian of Nebraska Wesleyan University, presiding. Miss Wheeler, North Platte, was vice president. Miss Nesbit of the Library Commission was secretary. Members of the Commission had part in this meeting. Miss Tobitt gave a talk on Library Personnel and Mr. Doane read his "Legend of the Book." Judge Letton greeted the librarians at the state library in the beautiful new Nebraska Capitol. Mrs. W. E. Minier, of Oakland, president of the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, talked on the Club Women and the Library, tracing the history of women's clubs and giving a survey of the relationship between the Nebraska Federation and Nebraska Libraries. One session of the program was devoted to School Libraries, Miss Harris, of the Teachers College of the University, presiding.

There were two evening programs of especial interest. Miss Jennings gave us glimpses of libraries of other lands together with many other things gleaned while on a world tour. George B. Utley, a former president of the A. L. A. and librarian of the Newberry library, Chicago, gave a delightful talk on Rare Books. As an added feature of the evening, Mr. Doane had on display some of the rare books in the University library.

Invitations for the 1928 meeting came from Beatrice, Kearney, Lincoln, and North Platte.

On October 11 and 12, 1927, preceding the N. L. A. meeting, the Library Commission held a library institute as in several former years. We are particularly pleased to report an attendance of fifty-five, the largest previous registration being thirty-three. Seven of the number were trustees. Forty-four libraries in thirty counties were represented. They came from Otoe on the east, Scottsbluff on the west, Boyd on the north and Harlan on the south. Obviously, considerable distance was traveled by some of those attending the institute. When one goes three or four hundred miles, we feel that it be-

speaks a genuine interest. The secretary was assisted in the institute program, by Miss Taylor of the Omaha public library, Miss Nesbit of the Commission, Miss Wheeler of the North Platte public library and Mrs. Anderson of the Beatrice public library.

The executive committee of the N. L. A. chose North Platte as the meeting place for 1928. Miss Wheeler as president was also hostess to the enthusiastic group which gathered in the library to attend the sessions of October 4 and 5. The news letter sent out by the secretary, Miss Harris, read: "You don't want to miss the western hospitality of one of Nebraska's friendliest, groweingest cities." Those who did miss it, missed one of the best things that the library association has been privileged to enjoy. The attendance was sixty which is very creditable considering distances traveled.

We are quoting from Miss Harris' report of the program: "Miss Kramph told in most interesting fashion of her experience as trustee of the North Platte library since its early history. She also spoke an enthusiasmic word for county libraries in Nebraska. An interesting P. T. A. session occupied one afternoon. Mrs. Crosby of North Platte talked on the relation of the parent to the public library. Mr. Anderson of the Teachers College, Kearney, spoke of co-operation between the P. T. A. and the libraries. Mrs. Reed of the Lincoln city library told of their work with the P. T. A. She gave much information about children's books from her fund of knowledge.

Mr. Matthew S. Dudgeon, of the Milwaukee public library in his address on Adult Education mentioned the emphasis that is now being placed on reading as an important method of instruction. As chairman of the A. L. A. committee on the library and adult education Mr. Dudgeon was interested in knowing how the board can best help the smaller libraries.

Mr. Malcolm G. Wyer of the Denver pubic library spoke on the Ethics of librarianship. Mr. Wyer received a cordial welcome as a former member and as a friend to many of those present. In his pleasant conversational manner he brought out by story and incident some of the finer points of ethics which relate to librarianship.

Mrs. Woodruff of the Lincoln city library gave a talk on the professional reading of the librarian, in which she said that all of the librarian's reading becomes professional as it helps her to serve her patrons better.

Miss Ingles of Omaha Technical High School library read her interesting paper, Glimpses of some European libraries. She said that her first impression in visiting the European libraries concerned the greater reverence shown for books and the lesser attention given to service as compared with the libraries of our own country."

Invitations for the 1929 meeting of the N. L. A. were extended by Beatrice, Grand Island, Kearney, Lincoln, and Omaha. Beatrice is the place selected. There was an invitation given by Mrs. Wilson, librarian of the Scottsbluff public library, to hold an A. L. A. Regional meeting there in 1930.

The officers elect are president, Mrs. Johnson, Madison public library, first vice president, Miss Kramph, North Platte, second vice president, Miss Mallie, deputy state librarian, secretary, Miss Harris, Teachers College, University of Nebraska.

The A. L. A.

From time to time through the text of this report reference is made to the American Library Association, of which the Nebraska Library Association is an affiliated chapter. It is our desire that the close relation existing between our state and national organizations be continued.

We wish to urge membership in the A. L. A. as well as in the N. L. A. It is also desirable for every librarian to become acquainted with the A. L. A. publications. We feel that many of our libraries should place a standing order for these.

Made possible by the Carnegie Corporation, four library institutes were held under the auspices of the American Library Association in the spring of 1927. Nebraska was fortunate to come within range of the St. Louis meeting, May 31 to June 9. It was our pleasure to have Miss Nesbit in attendance throughout the institute.

"It was a wise old Indian chief who first murmured the word 'Toronto', a place of meeting. And presently the Englishman, loving his play upon words, chuckled—'A good city, To-run-to'". So the good city Toronto was the chosen meeting place of the A. L. A. in 1927, June 20 to June 25. This was the third A. L. A. conference to be held in Canada. Her literary and library capital proved so attractive that attendance was second only to that of the semi-centenary meeting of the pre-

vious year. President Locke's happy manner contributed much to the success of the conference." Library Journal.

The secretary of the Library Commission was invited to read a paper on Book selection for hospital libraries, but it was not possible for her to attend the Toronto meeting.

Miss Gates of the Omaha public library kindly submits the following:

"The American Library Association conference of 1928, was held at West Baden, Indiana, at the end of May. The setting of the roomy old West Baden Hotel, surrounded by golf links, bridle paths, woods and formal gardens, in the height of the peony season, was a refreshment in itself.

One of the most timely papers was given by Charles H. Compton, on the Outlook for Adult Education in the library. Mr. Compton had made a survey on the occupational types who were taking reading courses in the St. Louis Public Library. He found that 'the readers of the Greek Classics include: printers, clerks, salesmen, a cabinet maker, a draftsman, stenographers, a musician at a vaudeville theater, a colored insurance agent, a hairdresser, a chauffeur, a drug store clerk, a beauty specialist, a butcher, a telephone operator, a reporter and a railroad brakeman's wife.' In his genial way Mr. Compton warned us against making propaganda of the Adult Education movement, suggesting rather the importance of personal service to the individual reader, offered with the least possible red tape.

Mr. Bishop, Librarian of Michigan University, made a report on the momentous work which is being done through the Committee on International Relations, mentioning his trip to the Vatican Library. In connection with John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s gift of two million dollars to the League of Nations, for a library, it was decided to reorganize and catalog the Vatican Library to serve the international body of scholars who come to Rome. This task may take ten years but will make available for research the valuable material of one of the greatest historical libraries in the world.

Altogether the conference represented such varied educational interests as to be a thrilling experience.

Several Nebraska librarians attended both the Toronto and West Baden meetings.



SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Volumes accessioned to December 1, 1926.....	37,850
Volumes in library December 1, 1926.....	30,631
Volumes added from December 1, 1926 to	
November 30, 1928.....	4,663
Volumes withdrawn to December 1, 1926.....	7,219
Volumes withdrawn from December 1, 1926 to	
November 30, 1928.....	597
Volumes accessioned to November 30, 1928.....	42,513
Volumes in library November 30, 1928.....	34,697

EXPENDITURES DEC. 1, 1926 to NOV. 30, 1928

	From Appropriation 1925—1927	From Appropriation 1927—1929
Books	\$1,805.39	\$4,199.24
Maintenance	1,434.15	2,380.01
Binding	470.12	640.50
Intititutional libraries	2,216.30	2,884.10
Salaries and wages	<u>3,686.92</u>	<u>10,295.00</u>
	\$9,612.88	\$20,398.85
		9,612.88
Total	\$30,011.73	
Appropriation July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1929....	\$31,800.00	
Expended July 1, 1927 to November 30, 1928..	20,398.85	
Balance	11,401.15	

STATE INSTITUTION LIBRARIES

Place	Population (Exclusive of employees)	Volumes	Circulation for Biennium
School, Kearney.....	198	1,300	4,448
School, Geneva.....	187	1,212	3,444
Institution Children, Lincoln *	101		
Minded, Beatrice.....	852	915	4,782
Institution, Kearney.....	100	1,147	2,610
Institution Women, Milford.....	67	650	3,804
Institution, Lincoln *	98		
Institution Men, Lincoln.....	708	3,500	54,151
Institution Women, York.....	277	1,000	6,011
	55		

STATE LIBRARIES

DEPARTMENT	LOCATION	VOLS.	DIRECTOR
Legislative Reference Bureau.....	Lincoln.....	40,000*	Edna D. Bullock
Public Library Commission.....	Lincoln.....	34,697	Nellie Williams
State Historical Society.....	Lincoln.....	60,000	Mrs. C. S. Paine
State Library.....	Lincoln.....	90,664	Charles B. Letton

*Chiefly pamphlets and clippings.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES

SCHOOL	LOCATION	VOLS.	LIBRARIAN
Beatrice Junior High School.....	Beatrice	900	Alice Elliott
Concordia Teachers College.....	Seward	5,000	H. O. A. Keinath
Cotner College.....	Lincoln	7,300	Ernest W. Lundeen
Creighton University.....	Omaha	35,000	Alberta L. Brown
Dana College.....	Blair	4,207	Dorothea Jensen
Doane College.....	Crete	19,700	William B. Hunt
Fairbury High School.....	Fairbury	2,000	Mrs. Margaret L. Cox
Grand Island College.....	Grand Island	11,229	Esther Hile
Grand Island High School.....	Grand Island	1,970	Alice E. Paine
Grand Island R. J. Barr Junior High.....	Grand Island	1,120	Mrs. Frances S. Panstian
Grand Island Walnut Junior High.....	Grand Island	1,300	Anna M. Donner
Hastings College.....	Hastings	10,006	Mrs. Ida E. Cappes
Kearney High School.....	Kearney	2,300	Lucile Hrubesky

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE LIBRARIES—(Continued)

OL	LOCATION	VOLS.
r High School.....	Kearney	865
chool.....	Lincoln	5,645
Junior High School.....	Lincoln	508
r Junior High School.....	Lincoln	1,808
.....	Wahoo	5,000
e.....	Fremont	18,000
ral College.....	Central City	2,000
eyan University.....	Lincoln	20,059
High School.....	Omaha	16,500
igh School.....	Omaha	2,007
igh School.....	Omaha	7,037

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES

PLACE	Year Established	Population (1920 census)	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries		Books and Periodicals			
			Hours per week	Other				
1 Ainsworth	1,800	1911*	970 \$	500 \$	170 \$	190 25	4,287	10,945 Mrs. F. R. Galbraith
2 Albion	1,978	1900	1,500	510	190	280 16	5,000	14,000 Mrs. Jennie Graden
3 Alliance	6,500	1909	3,900	1,080	780	2,455 30	12,866	31,751 Mrs. Blanche E. Prettyman
4 Alma*	1,498†	1910	1,400	645	231	487 39	3,350	8,312 Jennie E. Egelson
5 Ansley*	1,600†	1916	850	240	250	317 12	3,003	11,666 Mrs. F. L. Dewey
6 Arapahoe	900	1920	720	290	590	160 8	5,374	10,089 Mrs. L. Stevens
7 Arcadia*	1,125†	1917	1,400	492	188	255 33	3,793	11,535 Mrs. Sue Tucker
8 Arlington	695	1918	435	104	25	16 6	1,700	3,476 Mrs. Mell E. Winset
9 Arnold*	1,692†	1920	2,400	600	1,036	663 20	2,546	8,019 Laura C. Petersen
10 Aahlund	1,850	1902	1,085	300	341	352 15	4,100	8,897 Mrs. Margaret Parrish
11 Atkinson	1,400	1922	1,000	300	600	310 36	2,000	9,399 Mrs. Sylvia Richards
12 Auburn	2,863	1914	2,500	900	500	1,081 36	7,489	18,915 Mrs. Lillian Mastin
13 Aurora	2,962	1908	2,500	808	469	1,191 30	6,237	16,687 Lillian Moore
14 Axell*	947	1925	400	120	250	..... 11	637	2,000 Mrs. Ruby V. Edgerton
15 Bayard	2,500	1919	1,277	466	390	149 13	2,600	10,518 Mrs. A. H. Butler

*Township library.

† Including township population.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

Year Established	Population (1920 census)	Income	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals	Other			
9,664	1893	\$ 6,687	\$2,060	\$1,963	\$1,962	70	18,832	72,88
2,702	1917	2,000	812	455	728	30	5,051	18,82
1600	1908	1,285	600	244	396	30	2,787	10,46
1,300	1922	1,100	420	350	289	10	2,800	11,00
2,600	1910	2,007	1,034	362	875	33	5,427	19,54
1,300	1912	1,000	240	123	503	15	2,700	8,43
500	1906	286	50	89	126	6	1,316	4,03
766	1914	400	207	137	.....	8	3,557	9,37
2,500	1899	1,600	720	750	116	30	6,623	18,56

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population (1920 census)	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Hours per week	Other	Periodicals	Books and Salaries	Income	Growth in Collection	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries	Periodicals	Books and Salaries								
35 Creté	2,800	1878	\$ 1,467	\$ 540	\$ 342	30	8,508	14,557	Mrs. C. F. Baker				
36 Crofton*	1,242†	1927	500	240	.....	8	800	6,257	Mrs. Emil Eliasson				
37 Dakota City....	425†	1922	.....	104	42	4	1,280	2,778	Mrs. E. L. H. Neiswanger				
38 David City....	2,382	1891	2,760	773	432	33	6,833	16,730	Mrs. Laura V. Paul				
39 De Witt.....	650	1902	356	103	140	97	8	2,780	5,390	Mrs. Bessie Burgher			
40 Fairbury	5,454	1900	6,500	2,112	1,740	945	45	10,444	49,512	Mrs. Naomi W. Ellsworth			
41 Fairfield	784	1905	1,000	300	92	282	30	2,800	9,000	Mrs. Alma E. Ewing			
42 Falls City.....	5,000	1902	3,938	1,870	1,182	1,085	42	13,448	50,244	Mary Hutchings			
43 Franklin	1,200	1915	650	210	351	160	10	7,866	12,277	Josephine Peck			
44 Fremont	16,980	1910	7,746	1,916	1,047	2,296	60	14,051	63,771	Mildred J. Palmer			
45 Friend	1,263	1909	1,200	300	375	460	30	2,309	9,125	Rotha Doner			
46 Fullerton	1,800	1911	1,000	495	180	90	12	4,317	12,142	Mrs. P. M. Jorgensen			
47 Geneva	1,768	1906	2,000	900	196	544	38	5,687	14,692	Mrs. Isabel Bixby			
48 Genoa	1,069	1902	318	131	211	59	8	2,460	6,493	Ella Munson			
49 Gering	3,500	1910	1,285	420	274	273	10	3,683	13,097	Mrs. Mae Gardner			
50 Gibbon*	1,432†	1910	1,200	480	252	338	23	3,201	7,723	Mrs. Evelyn S. DeWolf			
51 Gordon	1,581	1922	400	240	60	97	14	2,727	7,723	Mrs. Frank Hunnemel			
52 Gothenburg	1,754	1916	2,000	960	350	480	33	3,375	10,581	S. Frances Botkin			

*Township library.

† Including township population.

‡ Too newly organized to report in full.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

Year Established	Population (1920 census)	Income	EXPENDITURES		Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation			
			Salaries							
			Books and Periodicals	Other						
1d. 14,000	1884	\$ 7,500	\$2,654	\$2,084	\$3,079	51	12,758			
.... 800	1918	710	330	86	251	18	2,584			
.... 1,467	1914	2,140	420	890	730	16	5,000			
.... 991	1916	1,395	375	141	563	31	2,698			
.... 11,647	1904	7,711	3,048	2,286	1,494	69	12,296			
.... 3,602	1907	2,413	1,131	604	782	42	6,018			
.... 1,513	1922	1,624	437	355	399	30	3,366			
.... 3,108	1895	3,565	900	1,318	864	35	7,249			
.... 1,014	1910	966	100	---	---	---	25,016			

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population (1920 census)	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN
			Salaries		Books and Periodicals			
			Hours per week	Other				
72 McCook	8,000	1902	\$ 4,000	\$ 991	\$ 958	56	5,600	13,742
73 Madison	2,000	1907	2,379	980	543	36	5,424	19,946
74 Merna *	1,368†	1916	1,500	480	450	580	13	8,500
75 Merriman	346	1927	180	102	40	....	4	832
76 Minden	1,800	1907	1,000	480	175	35	24	Sylvia Roos
77 Mitchell	1,298	1916	1,119	540	256	151	27	Mrs. Helen E. Slusser
78 Morrill	800	1917	786	135	50	55	8	Mrs. Anna B. S. Lord
79 Nebraska City	6,279	1896	2,644	1,406	301	575	36	Mrs. Ethel Wilson
80 Neligh	1,724	1904	1,384	414	201	769	15	Anne Stevenson
81 Nelson	1,000	1896	240	183	144	107	17	Mrs. Carrie M. Jones
82 Newman Grove	1,400	1923	1,322	436	446	174	16	Alice E. Ruddell
83 Norfolk	12,053	1908	3,823	1,640	856	1,327	45	Mrs. Margaret Dillman
84 North Bend	1,087	1908	1,000	600	272	413	33	Laura Durland
85 North Platte	10,466	1911	3,803	2,288	806	853	60	Leura Rount
86 Oakland	1,500	1916	1,200	305	453	231	12	Eleanor M. Wheeler
87 Omaha	219,200	1877	111,900	54,648	22,381	34,866	76	Lydia Hill
88 O'Neill *	3,000†	1912	1,000	600	209	858	20	Edith Tobitt
89 Ord*	2,604†	1922	800	240	100	50	9	Mary Mc Laughlin
								Mrs. Chester Hackett

*Township library.

† Including township population.

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

Year	Population (1920 census)	Established	Income	EXPENDITURES		Other	Hours per week	Volumes	Creation
				Salaries	Books and Periodicals				
1,414†	1,917 \$	1,847 \$	600 \$	474 \$	705 \$	33	4,683	8,292	
1,212	1,906	400	130	110	72	12	2,293	4,825	
1,045	1,921	300	60	193	.....	5	800	.....
1,595	1,904	1,242	887	274	311	39	2,000	7,330	
1,000	1,904	100	26	60	13	3	3,000	4,491	
1,200	1,908	870	360	264	246	9	3,836	6,055	
1,199	1,908	1,000	360	300	519	16	3,750	5,750	
1,199	1,908	1,000	360	300	519	16	3,750	5,750	

TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

PLACE	Population (1920 census)	Year Established	EXPENDITURES			Volumes	Circulation	LIBRARIAN			
			Income		Other						
			Salaries	Books and Periodicals							
108 Scottsbluff ...	10,000	1917 \$	4,800	\$ 1,674	\$ 2,010	30	9,900	36,744			
109 Scribner	1,021	1900	576	300	63	257	22	2,126			
110 Seward	2,368	1890	1,900	600	461	627	24	5,860			
111 Shelton*	1,512†	1907	1,700	856	96	887	30	5,288			
112 Sidney	3,800	1917	1,915	640	623	643	29	14,322			
113 Silver Creek* ..	1,008†	1918	600	320	130	52	36	1,650			
114 Spalding	900	1911	631	42	110	97	4	1,868			
115 Spencer*	1,380†	1916	589	300	243	490	11	3,000			
116 Springfield....	413	1926	250	100	.....	.....	.....	500
117 Stanton	1,487	1915	1,398	608	172	1,005	30	4,153			
118 Sterling	804	1904	400	240	92	60	14	1,760			
119 Stronsburg	1,361	1918	1,000	540	330	130	30	3,000			
120 Superior	2,800	1884	2,557	700	319	696	36	9,800			
121 Sutton	1,603	1908	2,000	480	285	335	33	3,453			
122 Syracuse	900	1901	660	120	147	301	10	3,089			
123 Table Rock....	750	1917	427	144	44	41	14	1,001			
124 Tahmage	626	1904	246	180	40	32	12	1,352			
125 Tecumseh	1,688	1887	1,015	420	200	564	30	4,350			
								8,282			

*Township library.

† Including township population.

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TAX-SUPPORTED LIBRARIES—(Continued)

Year Established	Population (1920 census)	Income	EXPENDITURES			Hours per week	Volumes	Circulation			
			Salaries		Books and periodicals						
			Other	Periodicals							
1,818	1916	\$ 1,500	\$ 600	\$ 226	637	30	4,880	12,266			
1,169	1922	\$ 1,095	360	209	437	29	1,876	11,310			
883+	1916	550	200	343	53	7	2,383	5,627			
2,338	1924	1,500	600	114	....	22	3,070	12,000		
1,114	1902	1,318	300	56	....	....	....	....

